



Alabama Children's Policy Council County **2003** Needs **2004** Assessment



**Alabama
Department^{of}
Children's
Affairs**



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

RSA TOWER
201 MONROE STREET, SUITE 1670
P.O. Box 302755
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-2755

PAGE B. WALLEY, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF ALABAMA
GOVERNOR BOB RILEY

(334) 223-0502
FAX: (334) 240-3054

Dear Fellow Alabama Child Advocate:

It is my great pleasure to present you with the 2003-2004 Alabama Children's Policy Council County Needs Assessment cumulative report. This culminates the annual efforts of each of our counties, both to identify resources and needs in their respective jurisdictions and to recommend methods for meeting these needs. In addition, this report reflects the dedication and detailed work of the employees of your Department of Children's Affairs, who assist the counties in their analysis and reporting as well as consolidate the data into this annual document.

You will find within this report an overall summary of the findings followed by an individual profile on each responding county. Please review it and provide our Department with any constructive information and suggestion which you believe would help us achieve our common commitment. Also, a powerpoint presentation summarizing these findings is available on our website at www.dca.state.al.us.

On behalf of the Governor and the Alabama Children's Policy Council, I thank you for your efforts on behalf of Alabama's Children.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Page B. Walley, Ph.D.".

Page B. Walley, Ph.D.

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Introduction

This is the third year that Children's Policy Councils (CPC) from across the state have submitted Needs Assessments to the State Children's Policy Council. The Needs Assessment serves several very important purposes. It fulfills a legal responsibility for both the county councils and the state council. It serves as an avenue for a county to identify the issues that are affecting our children's ability to grow into productive citizens. It also gives the members of the council a voice to policy makers in Montgomery and Washington. Needs assessments are reviewed by agencies and legislators to learn what is needed and where priorities should be placed. However, the most valuable benefit of the Needs Assessment is gained from the local communication and planning that it fosters.

Over the past three years local policy councils have identified several needs and have developed and implemented solutions. In 2001, the Walker County CPC wanted "to provide parent training specifically designed for out of control and 'at risk' children." The council implemented a parenting program, *The Parent Project*, to address this need. Council member agencies provided staff to be trained in this program; and, it has been an enormous success. This scenario has been and continues to be repeated in counties across the state.

"Partner with Public Health and the Department of Education to promote a progressive education program that includes nutrition, obesity, dental health, and exercise for all children from Kindergarten through grade three."

St. Clair County Children's Policy Council

This year, 65 of the Alabama's 67 counties submitted Needs Assessments.

The format of the Needs Assessment was developed by a committee of county CPC representatives and child advocates. It is designed to promote discussion in a broad range of categories that affect children's lives, provide information to state agencies, and serve as a starting point for a strategic plan.

"Seek funding for permanent placement of School Resource Officers in every school in Alabama."

Jefferson County Children's Policy Council

The Needs Assessment has three parts. Part I looks at issues, measures, and recommendations. Part II focuses on the councils priorities. Part III is an evaluation.

Alabama Law requires that Children's Policy Councils submit their Needs Assessments by July 1st of each year and that the State Children's Policy Council prepare this compiled report by October 1. The Department of Children's Affairs utilized a standardized list of areas to label and compare the county Recommendations and Priorities.

The Diversity of Alabama's Children

White	711,149	63.3%
African American	357,442	31.8%
Hispanic	24,875	2.2%
Other Races	15,344	1.3%
More than one race	14,612	1.3%

Voices for Alabama's Children, Alabama Kids Count, 2002 Data Book

How Alabama Stacks Up

Category	National Rank
Infant mortality rate	49
Child death rate	39
Teen death rate	44
Teen Birth Rate	44
Teen Dropout Rate	35
Children in poverty	44
Single-parent families	38

Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2003 National Kids Count Data Book

Structure of the Needs Assessment

PART I - Assessment and Planning

Part I of the assessment is divided into five broad categories. For each category the CPC lists Issues, Measures, and Recommendations.

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county. At least two issues should be identified for each category. For example, for the Health category a committee may determine that "Births to Unmarried Teens" and "Adequate Health Insurance" are the two primary issues. Once a council has identified the issues facing the county, it lists concrete Action Steps that the CPC can complete. These actions can be major or minor steps; they can be short or long term. This is the first step towards developing a Strategic Plan for the council.

Categories

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Economic Security - Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Early Care and Education - Children (0 - 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

"Modify Rehabilitation Services policies to increase outcome goals beyond minimum wage jobs (i.e. disabled adults may need to stay in sheltered workshop or other environment to achieve self-sufficiency)."

Coffee County Children's Policy Council

Measures are statistics that can be used to assess and monitor the status of the county's children. These measures may be pulled from the Kids Count Data Book, from other state or local sources, or could be a measure that has not been tracked but would be useful.

Programs or Policy Recommendations are listed that would help the county address the needs for this category. This could include specific policy changes for state agencies or specific changes to legislation to (1) improve the way services are provided, (2) eliminate road blocks or red tape that hinder quality services, or (3) provide for local flexibility to state programs. This could also include new programs or services to address the needs. Each recommendation is then labeled using a standardized coding system to allow DCA to analyze and compare recommendations across the state.

"Children dropping out of school should not be an option - some changes in the laws may be needed as an incentive for all children not mentally challenged to receive a high school diploma, a GED, or complete a vocational training program."

St. Clair County Children's Policy Council

"Increase funding for medical and dental services for families for whom English is a second language."

Tuscaloosa County Children's Policy Council

"Encourage faith based groups to become mentors for student members of their congregation."

Wilcox County Children's Policy Council

PART II - Priorities

Once the Issues, Actions, Measures, and Recommendations have been developed for each category the council then identifies the three priorities for the county's children. This is where the council members must decide which are the most pressing issues. Priorities should be stated as "Desired Outcomes," in positive language, and are accompanied by specific program or policy recommendations. These can reflect issues identified in Part I or could be overriding issues that cross over various categories. These outcomes should reflect what the council feels should be the priority for the council, its members, and the community for the next year.

Some of the counties top priorities were:

- ☐ Literacy issues for ages zero to nineteen.
- ☐ All children grow up safe and free from abuse and violence
- ☐ Education and treatment program for Multi-Needs Children and their families.
- ☐ Unemployment, request and establish a part time state employment office.
- ☐ Early Care and Education, to create the position of intervention specialist through grant funding.
- ☐ Juvenile substance abuse
- ☐ Reduction in the First grade retention rate.
- ☐ Education of the public on services available and services needed and parenting/life skills
- ☐ Implementation of substance abuse programs to teach awareness to youth as well as the community
- ☐ All children will have adequate and affordable transportation to and from services, as needed.
- ☐ Advocate for permanent, adequate funding for public schools.
- ☐ Short-Term detention center, keep submitting grant application for approval
- ☐ Alabama should not "privatize" children's services
- ☐ Improve the lives of children by strengthening families.
- ☐ All parents, teens, and children will have access to a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program
- ☐ Provide more and better pre-Kindergarten programs.
- ☐ Reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in the day to day lives of our children and youth.
- ☐ All children deserve to grow up mentally and physically healthy in a safe environment.
- ☐ To reduce the rank of uninsured children by working with the Health department, school nurse and relating information to parents for assistance via radio, flyers and health fairs.
- ☐ Economic development in rural counties
- ☐ Infant mortality rate.
- ☐ Truancy- Reinstate Early Warning Intervention Program. Upgrade and expand alternative and adult education programs.
- ☐ Making school campuses safe learning environments
- ☐ Health- Access to physical and mental health and dental care.
- ☐ Improve quality early care and education
- ☐ Create a Family Resource Center that would help provide solutions to a number of the issues affecting the children of out county.
- ☐ Early Care and Education
- ☐ All children will have access to alternative school programs to reduce suspension rate.
- ☐ A collaborative spirit will flourish and will be exhibited in the actions of the CPC and in the delivery of services by the various agencies represented.
- ☐ Increase the programs in the county for 0 - 5.

Overall Impressions

Two overarching themes resound through the majority of the county assessments. First, the need for continued and improved coordination between service providers at all levels. This includes between state agencies, between state agencies and local entities, and within local communities. This was demonstrated through areas such as Community Collaboration, but also was behind many recommendations for Child Health Issues, Family Resource Centers, Job Training and Delinquency Prevention.

Second, Alabama is largely a rural state, which often results in large gaps in available services. The need for Job Training programs, medical services, transportation systems and Substance Abuse Treatment Programs where our citizens can readily access them is a major problem.

"Have regional drug rehabs/mental health centers with uniform programs so consistent treatment would be accessible."

Cullman County Children's Policy Council

"Promote children's issues through business councils."

Talladega County Children's Policy Council

"Provide funds for a Short Term Detention Center"

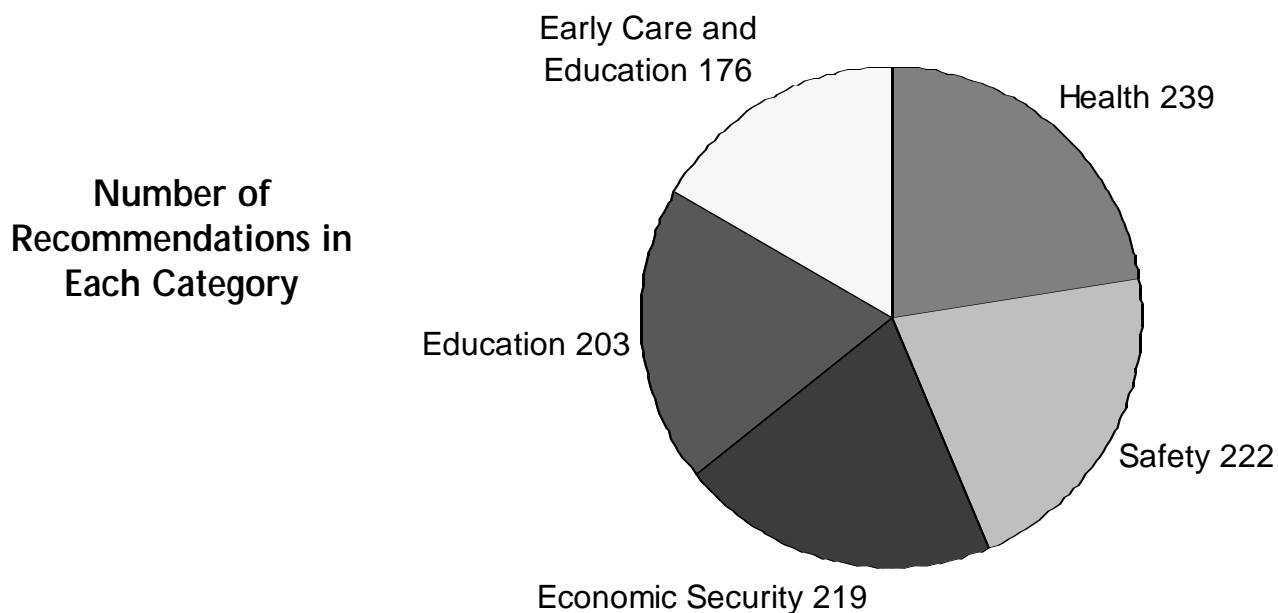
Lamar County Children's Policy Council

"Recruit a Medicaid dentist to locate in Cherokee County."

Cherokee County Children's Policy Council

Recommendations

The Department of Children's Affairs received 1059 recommendations from 61 counties. Several counties' needs assessments did not include recommendations. Recommendations were made in each of the categories of the assessment. It is noteworthy that each of the five categories received similar numbers of recommendations.



In order to effectively compare recommendations each council categorized their recommendations utilizing the Georgia Social Service List. The most common recommendation was for Substance Abuse Prevention, noted by 61% of the counties making recommendations. The following recommendations were made by at least 1/3 of the counties making recommendations.

Recommendation	Percentage
Alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention/intervention	61%
Delinquency prevention/intervention: court services worker, school resource officer, anger management class, conflict resolution class, etc.	54%
Early intervention: identification, assessment, referral, visitation, parent education, etc.	51%
Pregnancy prevention, general: Postponing Sexual Involvement, Teen Outreach Program, etc.	49%
Early childhood education (Early Start, Even Start, First Steps, Headstart, etc.)	48%
Parenting education/skills development, general	46%
Transportation	46%
Job training/career planning	44%
Other (specify): Encourage community volunteerism, support legislation for changes in laws, support legislation for increase in funding, etc.	44%
Family resource center: multiple services	43%
Job training and placement/support: multiple services program	41%
Family childcare: subsidies, slot expansion, quality improvement, etc.	38%
Health services, general: multiple services program, teen clinic, insurance enrollment, etc.	36%
Tutoring/academic counseling: after school, evening, weekend: homework help, reading, etc.	36%
Boy Scouts, YWCA & YMCA, 4-H, etc.)	34%
Center based childcare: subsidies, slot expansion, quality improvement, training to recognize sex abuse in children, etc.	34%
Community Education/Awareness: campaigns, speakers, billboards, etc.	34%

Top Recommendations by Descriptive Groups

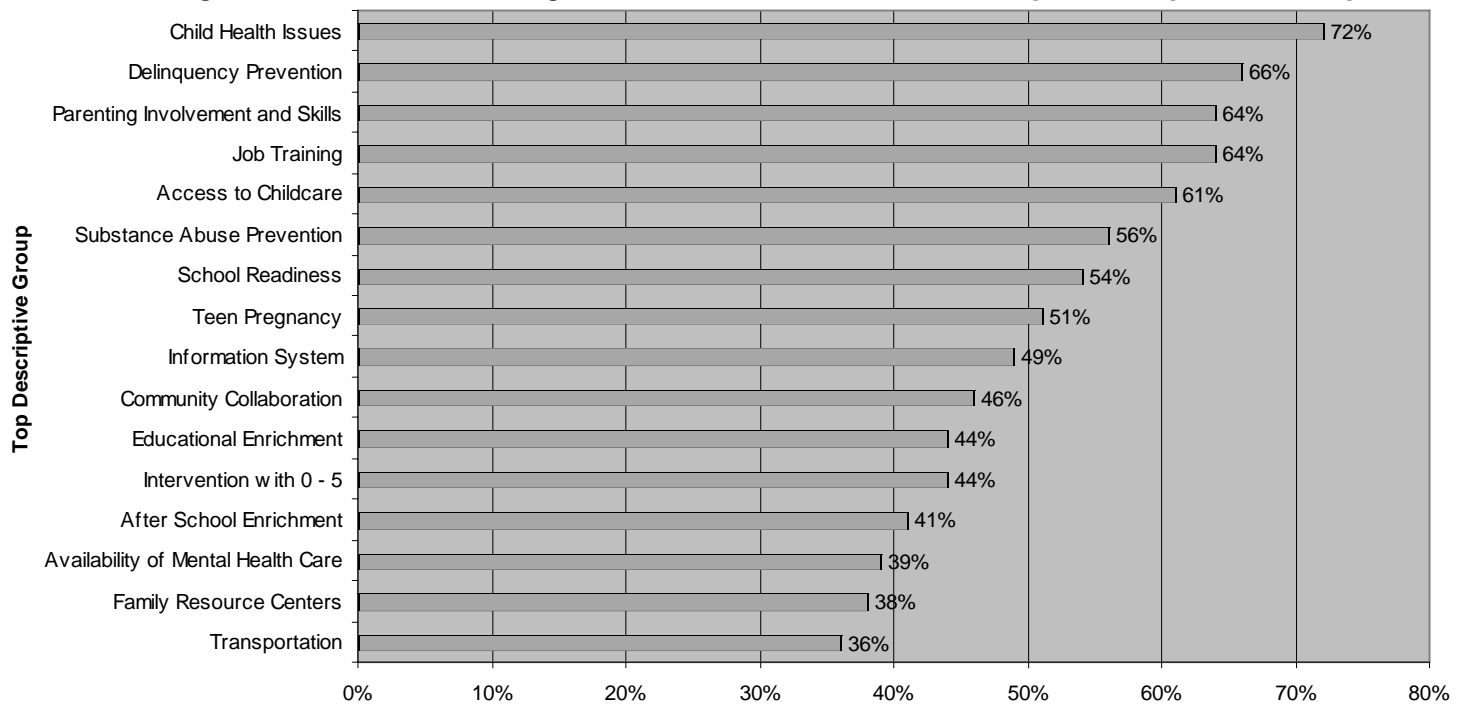
The Department of Children's Affairs further sorted the recommendations into 'Descriptive Groups' in order to combine the descriptions into broader areas. A list of these Descriptive Groups was prepared by staff and used to analyze the recommendations by the percentage of respondents who made recommendations in each area. This allowed DCA Staff to combine the descriptions into common groups that more appropriately reflect what the councils were recommending.

"Secure funding base for CHIP: All-Kids, SOBRA Medicaid and Alabama Child Care Foundation."

Jefferson County Children's Policy Council

Access to Childcare	Job Training
After School Enrichment	Juvenile Detention
Alternative Education	Literacy
Availability of Mental Health Care	Mentoring
Child Abuse and Neglect	Other
Child Health Issues	Parenting Involvement and Skills
Community Collaboration	Quality Childcare
Delinquency Prevention	Quality Education
Educational Enrichment	Rural Economic Development
Family Resource Centers	Safe Communities
Financially Stable Home Funding	School Readiness
Health Insurance	School Safety
High School Graduation or Equivalency	Substance Abuse Prevention
Information System	Teen Pregnancy
Intervention with 0 - 5	Transportation
	Victim Advocacy

Percentage of Counties Making Recommendations in the Top Descriptive Groups



"To promote abstinence and reduce teen pregnancies."
Crenshaw County Children's Policy Council

2002 vs. 2003 Recommendations

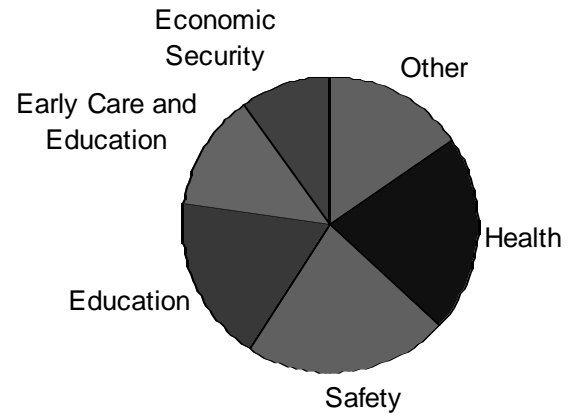
There was a significant increase in the number of recommendations in 2003. In 2002, there were 465 recommendations from 56 counties and in 2003 there were 1059 recommendations from 61 counties. Most of the areas recommended generally remained the same. Some of the most dramatic changes included "Job Training", jumping from 7.14% in 2002 to 63.93% in 2003, and "Access to Childcare", increasing from 14.29% in 2002 to 60.66% in 2003.

2002		2003	
Descriptive Group	Percentage	Descriptive Group	Percentage
Child Health Issues	64%	Child Health Issues	72%
Substance Abuse Prevention	48%	Delinquency Prevention	66%
Information System	43%	Job Training	64%
Delinquency Prevention	43%	Parenting Involvement and Skills	64%
Teen Pregnancy	39%	Access to Childcare	61%
Parenting Involvement and Skills	39%	Substance Abuse Prevention	56%

Priorities

Fifty three counties listed the top three priorities for their council and county in the coming year. These priorities were placed in categories by DCA staff and were compared to and sorted by Descriptive Groups by DCA Staff. Categories included Health, Safety, Education, Early Care and Education, Economic Security, and Other. "Other" had to be added because several priorities dealt with more than one category. Some of the priorities in the "Other" category included Family Resource Centers, transportation, and collaboration.

Total Priorities



Category	Total Priorities	Priority # 1	Priority # 2	Priority # 3
Other	26	9	5	12
Health	37	15	12	10
Safety	38	13	13	12
Education	31	11	14	6
Early Care and Education	22	6	4	12
Economic Security	17	4	9	4

In analyzing the priorities, weight was given to the higher priorities. Top priorities were given three points, second priorities were given two points, and third priorities were given one point. This was totaled to get the Weighted Value. Counties were limited to their top three priorities.

Descriptive Groups	Weighted Value	Total Number
Substance Abuse Prevention	38	16
Family Resource Centers	24	9
Child Health Issues	23	10
Quality Education	20	8
Community Collaboration	20	10
Teen Pregnancy	19	11
Transportation	15	9
High School Graduation or Equivalency	14	8
School Readiness	14	8
Rural Economic Development	13	6
Information System	10	5
Child Abuse and Neglect	10	5
Parenting Involvement and Skills	9	6
Educational Enrichment	8	4
Safe Communities	8	4
Intervention with 0 - 5	8	3
After School Enrichment	7	4
School Safety	7	3
Literacy	6	3
Availability of Mental Health Care	6	3
Access to Childcare	5	4
Juvenile Detention	5	2
Quality Childcare	5	2

Individual County Listings



Autauga County

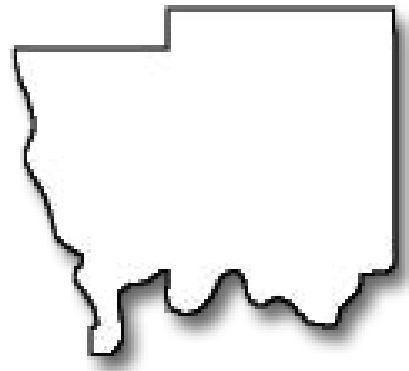
Autauga County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Phillip W. Wood, District Court Judge

Clyde Chambliss
Kathrine Russell
Jim Grady
Fred Gray
Dorothy Smith
Jan Byrne
Larry Butler

Eric Morris
Bobby Bryan
Randall Houston
Hon. Mac Gipson
Wendell Mitchell
Herbie Johnson
Susan Cranfield

Martha Ellis
Trey Norman
Bill Morgan
Hon. Jim Byard
Chris Jackson
Granger Palmer
Tom Miller



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Autauga County citizens and organizations work together to address the needs of children

☐ Involvement in Children's Policy Council.

All Autauga County children should receive the opportunity to succeed in life

☐ Work with faith community to establish tutoring programs in local churches.

☐ Increase job skill training responsibility.

Child care providers and local education agencies should work together to enable children to be prepared for school

☐ Establish statewide standards for childcare facilities and a statewide pre-k curriculum that prepares children for skills needed to succeed in first grade.

HEALTH

Lack of availability of health insurance coverage for children

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Work with Autauga Health Initiative to create the awareness of the availability of ALLKids and Medicaid Insurance.

Shortage of Medicaid providers

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Research need for providers by assessing the percentage of kids on Medicaid or receiving well check-ups.

Measures

☐ Percentage of exposure of children to well baby check-ups.

Baseline:

Goal: 1

☐ Number of children enrolled in ALLKids.

Baseline:

Goal: To increase number of children enrolled in insurance programs.

☐ Kids Count child health index.

Baseline: 62.4%

Goal:

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Assess screening rates of Autauga County children receiving Medicaid to see if they are unacceptably low. If rates appear low, evaluate the need for alternative providers other than those considered medical home; PH5

SAFETY

An increase in cocaine use.

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Develop a subcommittee to improve awareness.

☐ Partner with PASS substance abuse prevention program to improve public awareness.

Improve parenting skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support Autauga County Resource Center to increase parenting classes.
- ☐ Public education of parent education along with tutoring.

Measures

- ☐ Percent increase of cocaine from 2000-2002.

Baseline: 6th grade - 2.23%
7th grade - .7%
8th grade - .6%
9th grade - .5%
10th grade - .7%
12th grade - 3.1%

Goal: To increase the level of awareness concerning cocaine use.

- ☐ Youth Behavioral Risk Survey.
- ☐ Police incident reports.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Increase support for Family Resource Center; FD3.
- ☐ Increase parenting skills training; MH4.
- ☐ Increase availability of outpatient drug treatment; MH1;

EDUCATION

Autauga County High School drop out

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with local churches to establish tutorial programs.

Need for a comprehensive education plan

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide support for the Autauga County Blue Ribbon Committee.

Measures

- ☐ Drop out rate.

Baseline: 4.5% event drop out rate; 16.5% projected drop out rate.

Goal:

- ☐ Truancy.

Baseline: 2% (reported excessive unexcused absences).

Goal:

- ☐ State Report Card.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Mandatory school based social workers; MH6.
- ☐ Tutorial programs/after school programs; AD7.
- ☐ Professional development for teachers on 11 month contracts; AD9.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of technology infrastructure

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with local Chamber of Commerce.

Job skills for youth career development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Hire YDF - Youth Development Facilitators.

Measures

- ☐ TANF Enrollment in Kids Count.

Baseline: 2%

Goal:

- ☐ Vulnerable families according to Kids Count.

Baseline: 14.8%

Goal:

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Increase career training opportunities; ED7.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Uniform quality childcare

Communication between child care community and education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Sponsor meetings.

Measures

☐ First grade retention.

Baseline: 9.9%

Goal: To reduce the first grade retention rate.

☐ Uniform curriculum of Pre-Kindergarten.

Baseline: The number of facilities utilizing the uniform curriculum.

Goal: To better prepare pre-k children to succeed in first grade.

☐ Percent of exempt child care facility in compliance with standards.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ State mandated for Pre-Kindergarten; CD3.

Explanation: Pre-Kindergarten curriculum should prepare children for first grade. The state mandated curriculum should teach the skills necessary for children to succeed in first grade, thus reducing retention rate.

Baldwin County

Baldwin County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Carmen E. Bosch, District Court, Judge

Sue Joy

Turner Sims

Albert Thomas

Durwood Smith

Sen. Albert Lipscomb

Rep. Steve McMillian

Rep. Walter Penry

Rep. W.H. Lindsey

Janice Hendrickson

Sheriff Jimmy Johnson

Jennifer Rolison

Com. Frank Burt

Chief Lee Peacock

Dave Adams

Mary Burns

Billy Carlisle

J. D. Wetstone



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Children In Baldwin County Are Not Living Free Of Abuse And Neglect

☐ Family violence prevention/intervention: sex abuse, neglect etc.

☐ Sex abuse prevention/intervention: resistance skills training.

☐ Information distribution: Family resource directory, information library etc.

☐ Parenting education/skills development.

Children In Baldwin County Are Not Living Free of Drugs and Crime

☐ After school, evening, weekend programs for life skill

development.

☐ Information distribution, service directory, speakers bureau, etc.

☐ Leadership development: youth advisory council/board, adventure learning, team building etc.

☐ Parent involvement/participation.

Crime Victim Advocacy

☐ Encourage community volunteerism, support legislation for changes in laws and funding.

☐ Emergency assistance: temporary financial aid, housing, clothing, food etc.

☐ Involvement of faith based out reach programs.

HEALTH

At-Risk families (single-parent families, children living away from parents etc.)

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Support development of programs that work directly with at-risk families

☐ Increase the number of programs that develop effective parenting skills.

☐ Coordinate research and support of available educational programs/classes that additionally provide childcare.

Lack of Community Knowledge of Health Resources

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Support and encourage community awareness and education of health resources.

☐ Organize and encourage county/local health fair.

Measures

☐ Baseline: In 2002, 11,690 adolescents in Baldwin County were without a high school diploma and 17,975 adults were without a high school diploma.

Goal: Decrease the percentage of adults and teens without a high school diploma.

☐ Baseline: Estimate of those eligible for Medicaid/AllKids in Baldwin County versus number actually covered.

Goal: Increase percentage of those enrolled in available insurance.

☐ Baseline: Census figures increased migration into County (particularly at-risk families).

Goal: Proportional increase in funding of programs that work with families and help develop parenting skills and improve family function.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Development of counseling and treatment programs that work with the entire family rather than the individual.
- ❑ Assistance in promotion and development of health-related resources on the County level.
- ❑ Increase funding for expanded GED classes with family support components.

SAFETY

Children in Baldwin County are not living free of abuse and neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Promote corporate, community and youth involvement in supporting potential and existing programs such as: Safe Child Safe Place", "Solutions", "Keeping our Kids Safe", career programs in schools and programs related to effective parenting.
- ❑ Increase awareness of the current and future results of abuse and neglect on our county's children. Identify educational and support systems available to parents to improve their ability to provide effective parenting and to assist them in developing alternatives to inappropriate and/or ineffective training
- ❑ Utilize the Community Resource Guide to determine, identify and locate resources appropriate to the needs of individual families. Employ community clubs and organizations, church and youth ministries and speakers' bureaus to disseminate information.

Children in Baldwin County are not living free of crime and drugs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Promote corporate, community and youth involvement in supporting potential and existing programs with a focus on prevention such as "Too Good For Drugs", "Too Good For Violence" and "Family Strengthening".
- ❑ Increase awareness regarding the possible consequences of using drugs and alcohol. Identify pro-social community activities; the barriers encountered accessing those activities and possible solutions or alternatives to surmount those barriers. Improve community knowledge of activities and opportunities through the use of interest focused and age appropriate mediums.
- ❑ Utilize the Community Resource Guide to determine, identify and locate resources appropriate to the needs of individual families. Employ community clubs, church

and youth ministries and speakers' bureaus to disseminate information.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** In 2002 Alabama ranked 46th in the number of children with indications of abuse and neglect.
- ❑ **Goal:** To reduce Alabama's ranking in the number of children with indications of abuse and neglect to 41st.
- ❑ **Baseline:** In 2002 Alabama ranked 65th for juvenile substance abuse arrest rate.
- ❑ **Goal:** To reduce Alabama's juvenile substance arrest rate to 60th.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Develop youth driven "sub-committee" to act as advisory members of the Children's Policy Council.
Explanation: Engage area youth in the planning and direction of policy development would enhance the likelihood of general youth acceptance and development.
- ❑ Provide support in the expansion and further development of community resources possibly by providing assistance in grant research or writing.
Explanation: Many small community agencies do not have access to information regarding grant opportunities and/or the expertise to access them.
- ❑ Assist in the dissemination of information by supplanting the Community Resource Guide with additional information regarding current family oriented activities located within each community.
Explanation: Resources are constantly being either developed or terminated and resource guides cannot be maintained at the level needed to remain up to date.

EDUCATION

Truancy Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Familiarize principals and teachers about procedures of the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program.
- ❑ Involve more community agencies and school personnel (principals, counselors, teachers, administrators) to become actively engaged in the program.
- ❑ Support school based efforts to address absenteeism.

Behavior Intervention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Encourage school personnel to take a preventive measure when dealing with behavior problems.

- ❑ Support programs that encourage students to make sensible choices in adverse situations.
- ❑ Assist in establishing Anger management programs as an alternative to attending the Student Conduct Intervention Program (SCIP).

Literary Intervention

Policy Council Steps

- ❑ Support the Read, Enjoy, and Discover! Project.
- ❑ Involve community agencies to decrease the number of struggling readers.
- ❑ Assist in establishing extended learning opportunities for preschool and elementary age youth.

Dropout Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Involve community agencies in mentoring and tutoring activities for at-risk youth.
- ❑ Provide support for extended learning activities after school hours
- ❑ Support local efforts to keep students enrolled in school.
- ❑ Assist in establishing extended learning opportunities for middle school and high school youth.

Measures:

- ❑ **Baseline:** Baldwin County filed 403 petitions in juvenile court during the 2002-2003 school year for truancy and behavior issues which accounts for 1.7% of the student population (22394).
- ❑ **Goal:** To reduce the number of truancy and behavior cases.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Baldwin County scheduled 929 students for the Early Warning Truancy Program/SCIP, which accounts for 4% of the total student population.
- ❑ **Goal:** To reduce the number of reported incidences of truancy and behavior problems to meet the requirements set forth in the federal guidelines of No Child Left Behind.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Forty nine percent of the students entering school are deficient in age-appropriate phonemic awareness skills.
- ❑ **Goal:** To decrease the number of students who are at-risk when they enter school.
- ❑ **Baseline:** The State Report Card projected Baldwin County's drop out rate to be 15.73%.
- ❑ **Goal:** To the number of students who pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam and graduate from high school.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Baldwin County Juvenile Court System.
- ❑ Baldwin County Juvenile Probation.
- ❑ Baldwin County Youth Services.
- ❑ Baldwin County Regional Detention Center.
- ❑ Baldwin County Department of Human Resources.
- ❑ Baldwin County Youth Development Services.
- ❑ Baldwin County Mental Health.
- ❑ Care House.
- ❑ Head Start.
- ❑ Faulkner State Community College.
- ❑ Literacy Councils.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Transportation to Work and Services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Encourage membership and participation in the Public Transit coalition's effort to increase availability to public.
- ❑ Support PTC's request to Baldwin County Commission for funds to increase BRATS routes.
- ❑ Support constitutional reform that will allow home rule and termination of earmarking of state dollars. This will allow for some state tax dollars to be used in support of public transit. It will also allow for the use of revenue to be used as match money for federal dollars to be used for public transit.

Affordable Housing for Families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Support the recommendations published in the Alabama Real Estate Research and Education Center's July 2002 report entitled ***A Baldwin County Housing Needs Assessment*** that documents the need for affordable housing for families in Baldwin County.
- ❑ Support the efforts of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a task force of the Homeless Coalition of the Gulf Coast, which is working to provide a support for homeless families.

Population Growth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Provide continuous education and awareness to the council on the growth/development of the county and its needs.
- ❑ Apply knowledge of the county demographics to the actions of the children's agencies and this council.

Crime Victim Advocacy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support hiring a victim services officer to provide public awareness of crime victim compensation and to help access funds.
- ☐ Recommend that victim service officer be employed by the Administrative Office of the Courts to ensure availability and consistency across the state.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** In 2002 a worker needed wages of \$11.71 an hour to be able to afford the median cost of a one bedroom, one bath apartment in many cities and towns in Baldwin County (Cited From Page 113 of *A Baldwin County Housing Needs Assessment*).

Goal: Increased housing availability for low-income families.

☐ **Baseline:** According to the 2000 census Baldwin County is the second fastest growing county in Alabama with projected 3.2% per year increase in population expected over the next 10 years.

Goal: Continue to identify and address problems associated with rapid growth

☐ **Baseline:** The February 2002 South Alabama Regional Planning Commission Study confirms the need for continued incremental of the BRATS system to serve a fast growing population.

Goal: Identify and advocate for ways to enhance the availability of transit as a means of public mobility.

***We will attempt to work in partnership with surrounding counties to lobby for this change*

- ☐ We will publish a day care directory of center and home day cares for the purpose to better determine the needs that are present for education and or intervention purpose.

Health Needs: Early Dental Intervention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Research the availability of grant monies to provide care/treatment for Early Dental Care
- ☐ Attempt to establish a Partnership with Faulkner Community College Dental Program to provide education and intervention for Early Dental Care.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Research quality early education programs for Baldwin County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Explore the possibility of mandatory kindergarten in Baldwin County
- ☐ Submit a request to Faulkner State Community College to create a curriculum that will lead to a "AA" degree in Early Education

***This will be done in conjunction with other agencies facing the need for mandated trained workers.*

Subsidized funding for Day Cares

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Lobby for change in Medicaid rules in Alabama so that day care is a Medicaid entitlement service for Medicaid-eligible families.

Barbour County

Barbour County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Robert L. Bowden, District Court Judge

Louise Taylor
Rosalynn Collins
Berta Blackwell
Alfred Reeves
Jerry Glover
Dr. Susan Lockwood
Shannon Dunn
Boyd Whigham

Frank Straughn
Marshall Williams, Jr.
Rep. Billy Beasley
Corp. Teddy Fain
Susan Gillley
Jorie Scott
Owen Bolan
Sherry Knight

Tom Wachs
Betty Day
Gail Hudson
Martha Roming
David Hatfield
Paul Brunson
James T. Willoughby



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Teen Pregnancy

Literacy issues for ages zero to nineteen

Lack of availability of prevention programs for ages six to eighteen

HEALTH

Teen Pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Educate schools to make referrals to health department's teen pregnancy caseworker program.
- ☐ Educate Juvenile Court and other agencies to make referrals to the county health department's teen pregnancy caseworker program.
- ☐ Encourage the superintendents and health department to identify local issues and develop satellite health clinics on school premises.

Low Birth Weight

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ WIC information to be distributed to all agencies.
- ☐ Include prenatal care in strategy for satellite health clinic on school grounds.
- ☐ Explore all programs now available to teens; such as pregnancy, STD, and substance abuse.

Measures

- ☐ Barbour County's Teen Pregnancy rank in the State of Alabama.

Baseline: Barbour County ranks 57th out of 67 counties in Alabama.

Goal: To reduce rank to 50th in the state.

- ☐ Barbour County's Low Birth Weight ranking in State of Alabama.

Baseline: Barbour County ranks 55th out of 67 counties in Alabama.

Goal: Reduce rank to 50th in the state.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ PH6; FD9
- ☐ OS2; FD8
- ☐ CD4; YD1

SAFETY

Lack of availability of prevention program for ages six to eighteen to include substance abuse programs.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek grant funding for additional programs.
- ☐ Identify specific needs for prevention programs.
- ☐ Plan for "Operation Safe Teen" presentation

Safety plans for all public schools

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Court, Sheriff, and Superintendent meet to discuss protocol for safety issues.

Lack of Programs to address stressors that lead to abuse, neglect, or abandonment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek more community awareness programs.
- ☐ Seek more approved day care providers for low-income families.
- ☐ Seek parenting classes.

Measures

- ☐ Juvenile Crime and CHINS Court Referral.
Baseline: 317 Delinquent/CHINS petitions filed.
Goal: Reduce referrals by 15 %.
- ☐ Children Abused and Neglected.
Baseline: 45 abused and neglected cases; 16 children sexually abused.
Goal: Reduce cases by 10 %.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ YD1; YD3
- ☐ OS4; OS2; CD2; CD6; FD7; ED3; FD6

EDUCATION

Literacy Issues for ages zero through nineteen

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Council sends letters to local business and industry requesting volunteers to assist Barbour County Literacy Association with reading in elementary schools.
- ☐ Council presents certificates to elementary schools that score at or above the national average in reading.
- ☐ Council will disseminate information for YES program and Youth Development Facilitator

Increasing Vocational/ Technical enrollment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Job fair sponsored by local business, industry, and /or Chamber of Commerce.
- ☐ Ask local Board of Education to schedule field trips to Wallace State Community College/Sparks Campus for seniors not planning to attend a four-year college.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Number of students reading on grade level by third grade.
Goal: All students reading on grade level by end of third grade.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Number of students enrolled in technical classes.
Goal: Ten percent increase in students enrolled in technical classes.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ YD6
- ☐ YD4
- ☐ OS2

ECONOMIC SECURITY

The need to become financially independent

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek job- training problems.
- ☐ Seek job readiness programs.

Measures

- ☐ People below poverty level in Barbour County.
Baseline: 26.8% below poverty level in Barbour County.
Goal: Decrease poverty level by 10%.

Food stamps received by children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Food Stamp awareness and information to be distributed to all agencies and to the public.
- ☐ DHR will increase hours at the Eufaula Satellite Food Stamp Office.
- ☐ Promote public agency referral of all potential clients.

Child support received by children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ DHR will secure information regarding location of non-custodial parent by the custodial parent, resources, all known employers and other pertinent information.
- ☐ DHR will utilize automated computer system to accomplish locations of non-custodial parent.
- ☐ Promote responsible Fatherhood Program.

Measures

☐ Children receiving food stamps.

Baseline: 2,435 children receiving food stamps.

Goal: Increase awareness for appropriate referrals by 10%.

☐ Children receiving Child Support.

Baseline: Currently Child Support collections in Barbour County total \$138,600 per month.

Goal: Increase by 15% per year.

☐ The number of children enrolled in the Pre-K readiness for Eufaula City of Board of Education.

Baseline: There are 18 students enrolled this year.

Goal: The goal is to enroll 36 students next year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ CD3

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ ED7; ED9; ED11; ED8; ED3

☐ OS2; FD4

☐ OS4

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

There is a need to establish a Pre-K readiness program for the Barbour County Board of Education

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Council will approach the Superintendent and Board Members regarding the need to seek funding for Pre-K programs

☐ The Council will provide information to the Barbour County Board of Education regarding grants.

There is a need to expand the Pre-K readiness program for the City of Eufaula Board of Education

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Council will provide a letter of support for this program's expansion.

☐ The Council will encourage faith - based organizations to seek funding for Pre-K readiness programs.

Measures

☐ The number of children enrolled in the Barbour County Board of Education pre-school readiness program.

Baseline: There is no pre-school readiness program.

Goal: The goal is to have a Pre-K readiness program with at least 18 students for the Barbour County Board of Education.

Bibb County

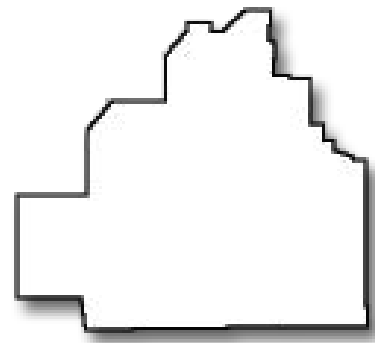
Bibb County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. James M. White, District Court Judge

Dr. Alesa Judd
Margaret N. Smith
Keith Stringfellow
Hon. Andrew Arrington
Napolean Worrells
Sheriff George Fleming
Mike Smitherman

Debbie R. Martin
Jesse F. Reese
Albert Hutchins
Jan Parker
Jean Caldwell
Wardell Harris
Jerry Pow

Trent bamberg
Janice Tibbets
Dina Pow
Sara Brazzell
Steve McInnis



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Education

☐ Provide support for programs of intervention which will positively impact education.

Economic Security

☐ Provide support for economic initiatives that will positively impact rural counties.

Health

☐ Provide support for children's health related interventions.

HEALTH

Access to health insurance

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Endorse actions of Bibb County Child Caring Foundation.
- ☐ Serve as link between local and state agencies supporting procurement efforts.

Early detection of child health issues

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support efforts of Bibb County Child Caring Foundation to provide school-based health screenings.
- ☐ Dissemination of information on child health issues and interventions.

Measures

☐ Number/percentage of children enrolled in CHIP, Medicaid, Child Caring Program Insurance, Private Insurance.

Baseline: 2002 Alabama Child Caring Foundation Annual Report, 737 total assisted.

Goal: Increase number/percentage of children enrolled.

☐ 2002 Kids Count Data Book County Ratings regarding health issues.

Baseline: Child Health Index - Rank 58.

Goal: Improve rank.

☐ Number of Participants in School-Based Health Fairs.

Baseline: Bibb County Child Caring Foundation.

Goal:

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Health services, school based; PH6.
- ☐ Information distribution: health fair, Resource directory; PH8
- ☐ Immunization; PH7

SAFETY

Children live and attend school in safe environments

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Dissemination of information to create awareness regarding child safety issues.
- ☐ Continue to work toward additional security measures for schools.
- ☐ Operation Save-Our-Teens - Continue to sponsor program in schools.
- ☐ Work toward getting School Resource Officers in schools.

Parent awareness of child safety issues

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Dissemination of information to parents and other caregivers.
- ☐ Education through school-based parent involvement center.

Children with indication of abuse or neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Parent awareness of child safety issues. Education through school-based parent involvement center.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count Data Book - County Ratings for Child Safety Issues.

Baseline: Children with indication of abuse or neglect - Rank 58.

Goal: Improve rank.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Information distribution, resource directory; CD6.
Explanation:
- ☐ Publicity in Newspaper; CD7
- ☐ Parent Involvement/Participation; YD7

EDUCATION

Quality of education available for children in Bibb County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Raise awareness of parents regarding their role in the education of their children.
- ☐ Publicize information regarding value of quality education.
- ☐ Seek opportunities for grant funding to support programs of education in all areas.

Provide support for the Bibb County Board of Education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support development of strategic plan.
- ☐ Seek opportunities for grant funding to support programs of education.

Bibb County

Measures

- ☐ 2002 Kids Count Data Book - Rankings for education related measures.

Baseline: First grade retention rate - Rank 61; Event Dropout Rate - Rank 18.

Goal: Improve Rank.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Information distribution, resource directory; AD2.
- ☐ Student support/assistance; AD4.
- ☐ Parent Involvement/Participation; AD3.
- ☐ Tutoring/academic counseling; AD7

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Promote and educate citizens on local services available in the County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide information on County Services at all County Government Agencies.
- ☐ Continue to locate facility for family resource center, and funding.

Support Economic Growth in Bibb County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Address local elected officials to encourage their interest in economic growth.
- ☐ Address and implement county-wide transportation.
- ☐ Work with existing industries to promote job creation.

Measures

- ☐ The Children's Voices Data Book-Track Population Increases and Decreases.

Baseline: 20,826

Goal: Maintain or increase population.

- ☐ Verify population increases and decreases through the employment and unemployment services.

Baseline:

Goal: Maintain or increase population.

- ☐ Check school enrollment through the Board of Education.

Baseline: 3,594.

Goal: Maintain or increase population.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ School to Career Program; ED7.
- ☐ Family Assistance Program; ED4.
- ☐ Business Resource Center; ED10.
- ☐ Bibb County Adult Ed; ED1.

Long-term Goal: Continue to complete the goals to improve the quality of life. Through making improvement in education, the citizens of Bibb County will improve the economy.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Preparing Children for Success in School

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continue to support high quality preschool programs.
- ☐ Support efforts by community agencies to seek grant funding for preschool programs.
- ☐ dissemination of information to community regarding necessity of preparing children for school.

Preparing Parents through Parent Education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Present relevant seminars on parenting that are of interest to parents.
- ☐ Establish a website to communicate information to parents.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count Data Book - County Ratings for Vulnerable Families

Baseline: Rank 31.

Goal: Improve rank.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Early intervention: Parent education; CD3.
- ☐ Summer program; AD5.
- ☐ Involvement of Outreach Programs; OS5.

Blount County

Blount County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. John J. Dobson, District Court Judge

John James
Millie Davis
Randy Jones
Lisa Brock
Judy Wright
Mike Mitchell
Ray White
Donnie Breaseale
Smiley Veal

Danny Hicks
Kathy Burtram
Deborah Davis
Van Davis
Sen. Hinton Mitchem
Rep. Elwyn Thomas
Hon. Royce King
Sheriff Larry Sexton
Karen Jinright

Rev. Bud Jones
Jerry Reno
Susan White
Elizabeth Nash
Jerry Meadows
Bruce Phillips
Meleah Davis
Linda Vest



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

To have a positive impact on student achievement through increased student attendance

☐ Increase funding for Attendance Officers, School Resource Officers, and School Social Workers.

To increase opportunities for student participation in fine arts activities

☐ Increase funding to include Art and Music programs in elementary schools.

To provide more challenging opportunities to expand students' knowledge and training in various careers

☐ Increase funding and grant opportunities for enrichment program such as dual enrollment, distance learning, and business/school partnerships.

HEALTH

Children Live Healthy Lives - Promoting Health Insurance for All Children in Blount County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Local agencies that serve children should have packets available to enroll the child (or children) in ALL Kids or Chips. All families should be asked at every visit whether they have private insurance, Medicaid or the State insurance for children. Encourage enrollment of all eligible children in health insurance program. It is sometimes difficult to get this information to families who need the insurance and who are eligible for these programs.

☐ Every school in Blount County needs access to a school nurse for assessment and evaluation of the children and their health and family needs. Partnership with the Boards of Education to advocate school nurses; provide support letters for grants, which fund programs for school nurses. School nurses see primary health problems in children that demand follow-up.

☐ Encourage agency and individual involvement in the Children's Policy Council in Blount County. This raises awareness of services available and keeps all who participate updated on beneficial local activities for children. The Children's Policy Council meetings also allow for discussion and "brainstorming" on how to improve programs for children.

☐ File 501(c)3 to enable grants to be filed that could benefit the health of children in Blount County.

☐ Encourage Family Service Mall that could provide necessary services for families in a convenient location that includes access to public health services.

☐ Seek funding to develop and improve programs to encourage healthy stable families.

Nutrition and Obesity in Children - Promoting Healthier Lifestyles for All Children in Blount County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Advocate school nurses and physical education teachers to promote nutrition and exercise programs in school. Long term sequela of poor diet and obesity will

result in great increases in heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and cancer for Blount County with 20 years (new statistics are one out of three obese children will have diabetes in the next few years).

☐Encourage all agencies to inquire about enrollment in WIC Program (free food program for ages 0 to 5 only) for children who are income eligible and meet risk criteria.

☐Encourage school system to develop and adopt a sensitive system for improving utilization of reduced and free school meals for those children or teens who are income eligible for these meals (one that does not single out and embarrass the child/teen).

☐Promote nutrition program like "Kids Club" to reach and teach young children and parents how to eat nutritiously.

Infant Mortality - Promoting fewer births to Unmarried Teens, Improving Low Birth Weight Statistics and Improvement of the Children's Health Index in Blount County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Advocate that all agencies dealing with sexually active teens and preteens refer client to Public Health Department for case management with Teen Counselor. Teens age 12 and older may receive physical examination without parental consent to rule out sexually transmitted infections. Teens who are age 14 and older may receive pregnancy prevention services without parental consent. Teens less than age 14 must have parental signature to receive pregnancy prevention services.

☐Advocate school nurses to provide programs on abstinence, pregnancy prevention information and sexually transmitted infection information for those individuals who are sexually active or contemplating sexual activity. School nurses should refer anyone with a known pregnancy for prenatal care and case management.

☐Advocate Parenting Classes like "Parent Project" to teach parenting skills to young parents, improve school dropout rates, decrease family violence and improve family success in the future.

☐Advocate prenatal care, nonsmoking, substance use in pregnant teens (women), and use of WIC.

Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Use in Children - Promoting Prevention in Blount County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Advocate smoking prevention programs in Blount County schools and smoking cessation programs at other

locations within the county. Blount County children have a huge problem with asthma, lung infections, ear infections, and other tobacco smoke related problems.

☐Request agencies display negative smoking, drug and alcohol campaign posters especially targeting children and teens

☐Advocate strict enforcement of the laws regarding children smoking and the use of drugs and alcohol in Blount County.

Children in Poverty- Promoting Social Support Systems for Single Parents and Decreasing the Rate of Poverty for Families in Blount County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Develop partnerships that promote stronger families.

☐Develop a Family Service Mall that will assist families conveniently in a "one stop" service center.

☐Help to mobilize individuals, groups, churches, and organizations to volunteer to work with families and children, especially single parent families-encouraging them to complete school, develop job skills and mentoring them in jobs.

Measures

☐Improve the Chips, ALL Kids, and Medicaid enrollment 20 percent of all eligible children in Blount County (the number of eligible children not enrolled is unknown per ALL Kids Coordinators).

☐Improve infant mortality rate for Blount County from 6 to less than 5.

☐Improve the low birth weight statistics for Blount County from 8.4 % to less than 6%.

☐Improve the number of vulnerable families in Blount County from 13.7% to less than 12%.

☐Reduce the number of births to unmarried teens in Blount County from 7.5% to less than 6%.

☐Improve the use of WIC program by 20 percent for eligible children in Blount County.

☐Improve the utilization of free and reduced cost lunches by 20 percent for eligible children in Blount County.

☐Raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol, drugs and tobacco use among children and teens in five percent of the population of Blount County (total population 51,024 per 2000 census).

☐Decrease the rate of poverty in children in Blount County from 13.2% to less than 12% and especially increase social support for single families.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Publicize ALL Kids, Chips, and Medicaid, WIC Programs and enrollment statewide more vigorously.
- ☐Increase funding for public health programs in family planning and publicity to prevent teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.
- ☐Provide more funding for school based nurses.
- ☐Embark on a phenomenal anti-tobacco, drug and alcohol use campaign for kids and teens.
- ☐Promote a parental-child involvement program
- ☐Promote programs that teach parenting skills. Encourage teaching of these skills in a formal program beginning in junior high school.
- ☐Partner with Public Health and the Department of Education to promote a progressive education program that includes nutrition, obesity, dental health, and exercise for all K5 children and continuing from first through third grades. Children need to learn healthy lifestyle information and habits early to prevent the conditions that are contributing to adult diseases. Involve the parents in these classes so that they could learn and practice healthy behavior together with their children.
- ☐Increase funding for social support programs for single parent families who are trying to complete their education and find better jobs.

SAFETY

Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Expand community mental health early intervention and assessment programs whose services can be accessed by all Blount County public agencies at no cost JPO, DHR, MH, etc.).
- ☐Continue and expand community education programs and develop a countywide speaker's bureau.
- ☐Expand and develop new (court-referred) ongoing, youth oriented outpatient treatment groups throughout Blount County.

Children with indicated abuse reports

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Expand community mental health early intervention and assessment programs whose services can be accessed by all Blount County public agencies at no cost JPO, DHR, MH, etc.).
- ☐Increase community education and awareness programs on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- ☐Support and expand county parenting education support, and intervention programs.

Measures

- ☐Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate
Baseline: 10 per 100,000 children (age 10-17) in county (2002 Kids Count).
Goal: 8 per 100,000
- ☐Juvenile substance abuse court referral rate
Baseline: 34 per 100,000 children (age 10-17) in county (2002 Kids Count).
Goal: 30 per 100,000
- ☐Children with indication of abuse or neglect
Baseline: 10 per 1,000 children (age 0-17) indicated (2002 Kids Count).
Goal: 9 per 1,000 children indicated

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Continued support and development of alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs in Blount County, MH1.
- ☐Development of preventive mental health services accessible to all Blount County service agencies at no costs; MH6.
- ☐Increase access to preventative services regarding abuse and neglect of children; FD2.
- ☐Continue support of and enhance existing community education/awareness programs and printed educational information; OS4.

EDUCATION

Truancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Attendance officer, in coordination with the court system, will refer parent to the Parent-to-Parent Program.
- ☐Appropriate school personnel, i.e., School Resource Officers, Counselors, Parent Liaisons, School Nurses, School Social Workers, will increase parent contact.
- ☐Administrators and other appropriate school personnel will participate in extensive training on attendance policies, procedures and consistent implementation.

A more challenging school system

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Broaden the opportunities for high school students to participate in enrichment programs, i.e., dual enrollment, job shadowing, distance learning, business partnerships, Talent Unlimited, career days, to challenge students' vision for the future.

- ❑ Increase opportunities for student participation in fine arts activities by utilizing local artists, providing artistic performances locally and meaningful visits to artistic displays. Thus, positively impacting student achievement.
- ❑ Recruit volunteers, i.e., retired teachers, Reading Buddies, Veterans and other civic groups, to form tutoring teams to assist students.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Tremont Data
Goal: Decrease unexcused absences by 4%.
- ❑ **Baseline:** STAR Reading Assessment Data
Goal: Increase the number of students achieving 1 year or more growth in reading and math by 5%.
- ❑ **Baseline:** AHSGE Data
Goal: Establish a 50% passing rate among students who received tutoring services after failing the graduation exam.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Early Warning Program: increase funding for attendance officers, school resource officers, and school social workers; AD6.
- ❑ Student support/assistance: increase funding and grant opportunities for enrichment programs such as dual enrollment, distance learning, job shadowing, and business/school partnerships; AD4, AD9.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

All children in Blount County will have the skills necessary to succeed in school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Increase opportunities for parent training through classes and additional in-home programs for at-risk parents on parenting skills and developmentally appropriate activities for children.
- ❑ Advocate for an increased availability of Pre-K Head Start and Early Head Start programs as free, quality child care for low-income families.
- ❑ Advocate for the increased availability of the State Pre-K program for all four year olds.
- ❑ Increase opportunities for professional development of child care providers (i.e., CDA/TEACH Scholarship program).
- ❑ Advocate for licensing of all Child care programs.

- ❑ Advocate for the hiring of quality child care providers (CDA/Associate level degree).
- ❑ Provide information/training information concerning ongoing sustained professional development for child care providers.
- ❑ Raise public awareness about the early years/development on 0-6.
- ❑ Encourage early referral of children with developmental delays.

Develop and implement mechanisms for maximizing state matching dollars to secure the maximum childcare dollars for the Federal level

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Raise public awareness concerning the many public needs these dollars fund.
- ❑ Develop a fact sheet with information and talking points on the need for state expenditures on child care.
- ❑ Expand our subcommittee to include members outside the field of Early Care & Education.
- ❑ Present an Early Care & Education program for Blount County Children's Policy Council members at large.
- ❑ Disseminate legislative alerts regarding child care needs to the Children's Policy Councils across the state.
- ❑ Write op-eds/editorials to local newspapers focusing on child care issues.
- ❑ Coordinate advocacy efforts with other CPC early care and education subcommittees across the state.

Measures

First Grade Retention Rate.

Baseline: 8.5%

Goal: 6%

❑ Child Health Index.

Baseline: 59.8% of live births in Blount County in 2002 had none of the birth characteristics that affect children's later school success.

Goal: 57.8%

❑ Number of slots available in licensed, quality child care facilities.

Baseline: 22 licensed child care facilities - 1764 slots; 0 nighttime care; 0 weekend care

Goal: Increase the number of slots for all the above by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Insure that state funding for child care is always adequate to draw down maximum federal match.

- ☐ Institute a state child care income tax credit that equals the federal tax credit.
- ☐ Allocate a percentage of available funds as match money as leverage for grant funds that address the needs of young children, families, and caregivers.

Bullock County

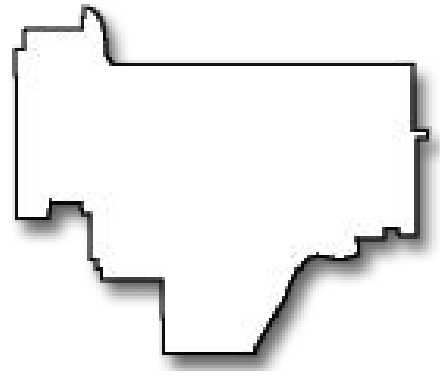
Bullock County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Michael O. Emfinger, District Court Judge

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Peggy Davis
Cathy Dickerson
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Betty M. Helms
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Bessie Still
Cpl. Damon Summers
Saint T. Thomas, Jr.
Ron Wheeler
Clarence Wheeler
Boyd Whigham



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Infant Mortality Rate (Health)

☐ Programs for pregnancy prevention to teach postponing sexual involvement responsible parenting will be taught throughout the county.

Births to unmarried teenage mothers who have not finished high school (Health)

☐ State Department of Education will implement and endorse Sex Education Classes in Bullock County.

Children who are victims of Abuse and Neglect (Safety)

☐ State will assist Bullock County to establish family violence prevention/intervention programs to address sex abuse, neglect and battery.

HEALTH

Infant Mortality Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Determine cause of death rate.
- ☐ Analyze demographic information relating to death rate.
- ☐ Promote public awareness campaign about escalating problem.

Birth to Unmarried Teens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote Sex Education Programs in schools and community.
- ☐ Teen pregnancy prevention activities.
- ☐ Social workers in school.
- ☐ Health Fair and Public Service Campaign.

Measures

Baseline: 2002 Kids Count ranking of 66 out of 67.
Goal: Decrease infant mortality rate in upcoming year by 8%.

Baseline: 2002 Kids Count ranking of 64 out of 67.
Goal: Decrease Births to unmarried Teens by 8% in upcoming year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ FD8
Explanation:: State will fund programs for pregnancy prevention to teach postponing sexual involvement.
- ☐ FD9
Explanation: State will fund pregnancy prevention program to teach male responsibility.

SAFETY

Child Death Rate for children 1-14 years of age

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Determine cause of these deaths.
- ☐ Engage law enforcement to work with safety sub-committee of Children's Policy council to focus on the issue.

☐ Promote public awareness campaign to deter the current child death rate.

Children who are victims of abuse and neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establishment of parenting classes focusing on appropriate discipline
- ☐ Develop public awareness campaign to distribute information that stresses identification of the problems, especially teen sexual assaults.
- ☐ Create interagency collaboration on the issue by involving law enforcement, DHR, health department, school system, and juvenile court system.

Measures

- ☐Baseline:** Bullock County's 2002 Kids Count ranked 51st for Child Death Rate.
- Goal:*** Reduce by 5% the child death rate the upcoming year.
- ☐Baseline:** Bullock County's 2002 Kids Count ranked 35th for Child Abuse and neglect.
- Goal:*** Reduce by 8% the incident report for child abuse and neglect for the upcoming year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐FD2

Explanation: State will assist Bullock County to establish family violence prevention/intervention program to address sex abuse, neglect and battery.

☐YD8

Explanation: State will fund prevention/intervention programs to impact this issue.

EDUCATION

First Grade Retention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Disseminate First Grade Readiness Criteria to all First Grade Teachers, Head Start and Early Care Providers, and to Parents.
- ☐ Increase Collaboration Efforts to distribute criteria checklists for First Grade Readiness.
- ☐ School System will provide professional development program which engages all early care and education providers to accomplish academic readiness criteria

Violence in the Schools

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop At-Risk Database which identifies students that have academic or behavior problems.
- ☐ Establish anger-management classes which are required by judicial mandate for students who are habitually disruptive.
- ☐ Parenting classes will be developed and utilized to help direct parents with disruptive children.
- ☐ Juvenile probation officer will coordinate disciplinary actions with school officials to ensure safety and academic excellence.

Measures

- ☐Baseline:** Bullock County's 2002 Kids Count ranked 65th for First Grade Retention.
- Goal:*** To decrease by 5% the number of students retained in First Grade.
- ☐Baseline:** To research and establish current rate of violent offense in Bullock County School System.
- Goal:*** To reduce violent offense occurrence rate by 5% during upcoming school year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐CD2

Explanation: State Department of Education will provide Bullock County with State approved First Grade Readiness Curriculum /Testing.

☐YD4, YD3

Explanation: Alabama office of Courts will help Bullock County network with AT-Risk Database System.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Births to Unmarried Teen Mothers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create family resource center to implement programs to help address parenting skills.
- ☐ Promote public awareness on the issue of births to unmarried teen mothers.
- ☐ Enrollment of unmarried teen mothers in Life skills and Job Training Programs.

Child in Poverty

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Analyze demographic information to determine causal relationship of children in Poverty, and examine unemployment rate concepts as it relates to children in poverty.

- ❑ Economic Security sub-committee of CPC needs to involve community in a plan of action to positively impact poverty levels in Bullock County.
- ❑ CPC needs to develop a 3 to 5 year strategic plan to be presented to County officials as a road map to lead the county out of poverty.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Kids Count 2002 rank for Bullock County is 64 out of 67.
- ❑ **Goal:** Reduce by 5% the number of births to unmarried teens in the upcoming year.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Kids Count 2002 showed a rank of 64 which increased from 58 in 2001 Kids Count.
- ❑ **Goal:** Reduce by 5% the number of children in poverty during the upcoming year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ PH6
Explanation: State Department of Education will implement mandated Sex Education Classes.
- ❑ OS4, OS5
Explanation: Community Education and awareness to faith based outreach and community development projects will be implemented.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Parental awareness of education and early care needs of children ages 0 to 5

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Involve parents in parenting classes (before and after birth of child).
- ❑ Develop resource guide and literature to be distributed to community at large.
- ❑ Involve faith-based community and CPC in the strategic plan for the county.

Low weight births

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Promote continuance of existing programs such as "Baby Think It Over."
- ❑ Coordinate local support groups such as church youth groups.
- ❑ Network community agencies to promote a decline in low weight births.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** To determine exact number of Head Starts, Pre-K sites, and child care Programs across the county.
- ❑ **Goal:** To establish standards of excellence for each of these sites.
- ❑ **Baseline:** 2002 Kids Count rank of 59 out of 67.
- ❑ **Goal:** To decrease existing percentage by 2% in upcoming year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ CD2, CD3
Explanation: Research availability of grant monies to provide training for early childhood education.
- ❑ FD8
Explanation: State provides funding for sex education and abstinence programs in the school system.

Butler County

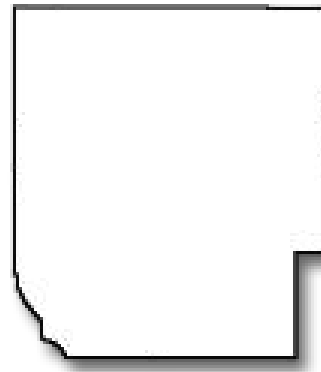
Butler County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Mac Russell, District Court Judge

Joe Bush
Cynthia Hataway
Turner Sims
Dr. Mike Reed
Terry Lewis
Ziba Anderson
Chris Salter

John Andrews
Charles Newton
Daniel Robinson
Diane Harris
Dexter McLendon
Lynn Harold Watson
Betty Stinson

Frank Hickman
Gene Hudson
Fran Branum
Janice Tibbets
Nancy Robins
Jamie Manning



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All Butler County residence will have access to public transportation

☐ State will fund a transportation programs for Butler County.

All children living in Butler County who need mental health treatment will have access to quality mental health care

☐ State will fund a Day Treatment program for the special needs children of Butler County.

All children of Butler County will complete their education

☐ Implement support services for at risk children to promote the importance of education and offer appropriate GED programs.

HEALTH

There are a high percentage of teen pregnancies in Butler County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase opportunity for abstinence and sex education to be taught to at-risk youth during the summer.
- ☐ Increase referrals to existing programs.
- ☐ Collaboration with DA's office to provide education on laws concerning teenagers.

There is a need for a day treatment program for Emotionally Conflicted children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The Children's Policy Council will look at the programs in Baldwin and Covington County and how these began and are maintained.
- ☐ The Children's Policy Council will research Day Treatment Programs for emotionally conflicted youth and

coordinate with the Department of Mental Health to seek funding.

☐ Increase the awareness of the need to head up the necessary funding to implement a Day Treatment Program for emotionally conflicted youth and partner with the Department of Mental Health to obtain the appropriate research on the steps to implementing such a program.

Measures

☐ Decrease in births to teenagers.

Baseline: 17.1 % of children born in Butler County are born to teenage mothers.

Goal: Decrease the percentage of children in Butler County born to teenage mothers by 5 %.

☐ Increase the availability of resources to emotionally conflicted youth.

Baseline: There are zero day treatment programs that target emotionally conflicted youth available in Butler County.

Goal: Complete the necessary research on the steps and funding needed to start such a program.

SAFETY

There is a need for prevention/educational programs focusing on the physical and sexual abuse of children

Policy Council Action Steps

- Partner with the Butler County Children's Advocacy Center to provide educational/prevention programs in the school system regarding sexual and physical abuse.
- Incorporate educational/preventive information into existing parenting classes.
- Provide "workday" speakers to county school systems to speak about the signs and symptoms of abuse and the proper procedure for reporting abuse.

There is a need for quality regular and therapeutic foster homes

Policy Council Action Steps

- Contact the Greenville Advocate and Butler County News. regarding foster parent recruitment.
- Work with Family Finders to recruit and train foster parents.
- Contact UMCH TFC regarding recruitment in Butler County.

Measures

- The number of children with indication of abuse or neglect.

Baseline: 7.6%

Goal: 6.0%

- Percentage of foster children placed within county.

Baseline: 38% of foster children placed within county.

Goal: 50% of foster children placed within county.

EDUCATION

Increase the percentage of all students (grades 3-8) performing on grade level for all subjects (complete battery) according to the state assessment

Policy Council Action Steps

- Increase referrals to existing programs for extended learning in the county programs.

- Support grant applications for tutoring, after-school programs, and pre-school programs.
- Increase collaboration with the school system to increase public awareness of the need for more local financial support for education.

Decrease the dropout rate and expulsion rate for Butler County

Policy Council Action Steps

- Support grant application for funding for Alternative School and ISSP programs in Butler County.
- Increase public awareness of the importance of education and how it affects a child's future potential for self-sufficiency.
- Increase collaboration with community agencies/organizations and the Butler County Education and community Center to provide more parenting classes offering developmental guidance and life skills to at-risk families.

Measures

- School System status (State Department of Education).

Baseline: School Year 2001-2002: 5 schools in Clear, 2 schools in Caution.

Goal: All seven schools in Clear Status by the end of the school year 2003-2004.

- Projected Dropout Rate-School District Report Card for 2000-2001 (State Department of Education).

Baseline: 34.58 percent of students in 9th grade in 2000 who are projected to leave school prior to graduation in 2003. State rating of F.

Goal: Decrease for 34.58 percent to 29.5 percent on School District Report Card for 2003-2004.

- State Assessment-2001 SAT9 scores.

Baseline: 2001 SAT9 scores for grades 3-8.

Goal: To increase yearly by 2 percent of students in each grade (grade 3-8) performing on grade level for all subjects according to the state assessment.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- Parent involvement/participation/parenting classes and workshops; AD3.

Explanation: Enhance and continue programs already implemented.

- Alternative schools and ISSP programs; AD1.

Explanation: Enhance and continue programs already implemented.

- Academic after-school programs, summer school, tutoring programs, summer enrichment programs for at risk students; AD7.

Explanation: Enhance and continue programs already implemented.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

The need to expand the career path program

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Increase the number of participants by making the community more knowledgeable about the program.
- ❑ Participating Council Agencies will make referrals to the program.

Lack of transportation in Butler County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ The Children's Policy Council will look at the programs in Covington and Baldwin County and how these began and are maintained.
- ❑ The Children's Policy Council will research transportation and coordinate with all agencies to seek funding.

Measures

- ❑ Number of participants in the career path program.
Baseline: Currently there are only three participants in the program.
Goal: To increase the number of participants to at least 15.
- ❑ The availability of any transportation program in Butler County.
Baseline: Currently there is no transportation program in Butler County.
Goal: Offer at least one transportation program in Butler County.

State Programs and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Adult Education, literacy: GED, evening/weekend school, etc.; p ED1.
Explanation: Enhance and continue programs that are already implemented.
- ❑ Job training/career planning; ED7.
Explanation: Enhance and continue programs that are already implemented.
- ❑ Transportation; OS2.
Explanation: Implement and start new program.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Shortage of quality early care facilities in Butler County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Write grants and seek other funding sources to increase the availability of quality early care facilities in Butler County.
- ❑ Increase knowledge and awareness of childcare providers, communities, grandparents and parents of the importance of stimulation and early learning within the first three years of life.

Lack of quality pre-school programs in Butler County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Write grants and seek other funding sources to increase the availability of quality pre-school programs in Butler County.

Measures

- ❑ Increase availability of quality early care programs.
Baseline: Butler County currently has 25 licensed daycares, and 4 day care centers, for a total of 29 early care facilities.
Goal: Butler County would like to have 40 licensed daycares, and 5 licensed daycare centers.
- ❑ Increase availability of quality pre-school programs.
Baseline: Butler County currently has slots for 160 pre-school children.
Goal: Butler County would like to have slots for at least 190 pre-school children.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

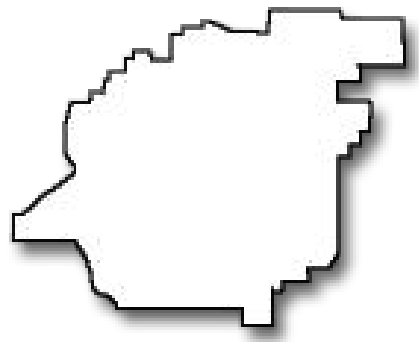
- ❑ Early Childhood Education (Early Start, Even Start, First Steps, Headstart, etc.); CD3.
Explanation: Enhance and continue programs that are already implemented.
- ❑ Center Based Childcare (subsidies, slot expansion, quality improvement, and training to recognize sex abuse in children, etc.); CD3.
Explanation: Enhance and continue programs that are already implemented.
- ❑ Brain Train (encourages all who care for infants, toddlers, and pre-school children to take advantage of these early years by providing a safe, loving atmosphere in which children can learn and grow); CD7.
Explanation: Implement and start new program.
- ❑ Kids and Kin Program (Unlicensed relative child care providers are certified and compensated in the form of developmental supplies, equipment, or services for attending workshops designed to enhance the quality of childcare); CD7.
Explanation: Implement and start new program.

Calhoun County

Calhoun County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Jack W. Hughes, Circuit Court Judge

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Laura Johnson-Price	Tom Wright	Lay Tolbert
Dave A. Harvey	Teresa Childers	Mike Rollins
Jonathan Davis	Joe Hubbard	Jimmy Trammel
Judy Martel	Sen. Del Marsh	Vera Leonard
Bill Reynolds	Rep. Mike Rogers	Beth Meehan
Lt. Joyce Shelly	Rep. Gerald Willis	Donald W. Walton
Mike Reese	Rep. Steve Hurst	Ruth Collins
Jacky Sparks	Rep. Barbara Boyd	Greg Cole
Dr. Steve Nowlin	Eli Henderson	Dora I. Jones
Dr. Leonard Messer	Sheriff Larry Amerson	Rose Tolliver-Munford
Dr. Louis Higgins	Mayor Leon Smith	W. Carmello-Harper



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Children have a stable home

- ☐ Survival skills training for women.
- ☐ Parenting classes.
- ☐ Day care provider training to recognize child abuse/neglect.

All children grow up safe and free from abuse and violence

- ☐ Residential placement for juvenile males (CHINS).
- ☐ Establish a special team made up of staff from DHR, law enforcement, mental health, district attorney, and Child Advocacy Center to be on call on a 24-hour basis to respond to all immediate reports of abuse.

- ☐ Develop a residential therapeutic community for substance abusers where children and their parents can be housed together without separation.

Every child in Alabama has access to a quality education

- ☐ Creative arts programs such as the All Saints Creative Arts Center.
- ☐ Free quality after-school program.
- ☐ Reading Enrichment Program.
- ☐ Teacher training.

SAFETY

All children grow up safe and free from abuse and violence

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Locate funding.
- ☐ Coordinating existing services and grant opportunities.

Measures

Baseline: Children reported abused or neglected - Kids Count 2002.

Goal: Reduce number of children reported abused or neglected.

EDUCATION

Every child in Alabama has access to a quality education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Conduct needs assessment.
- ☐ Conduct quarterly CPC meetings.
- ☐ Name a task force to study educational needs and brings recommendations to the CPC.

Measures

Baseline: Projected drop out rate - AL Kids Count 2002.

Goal: Reduce number of drop outs.

Baseline: Anniston City Schools System alert status - AL Dept of Education.

Goal: Reduce number of schools on alert/caution status.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children have a stable home

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Provide the latest community needs assessment conducted by the Calhoun County Community Foundation to all Children's Policy Council members.
- ❑ Keep council informed of available funding sources and new, innovative programs.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Children in poverty - Kids Count 2002.
- Goal:** Reduce number of children in poverty.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Female head of household - Kids Count 2002.
- Goal:** Reduce number of female headed households.

Chambers County

Chambers County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Joel G. Holley, District Court Judge

Julia Ann Hyde

Jean Spicer

Chief Eddy Ware

Chief Ricky Billingslea

Chief Bryan

Leonard Riley

Becky Lee

Edith Billingslea

Pete Gresham

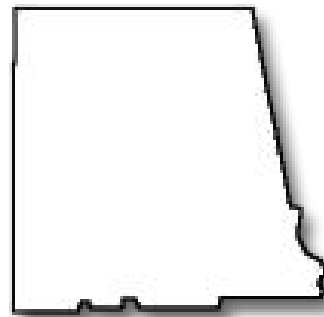
Rea Clark

Gary Lane

Sid Lockhart

Brandy Kirk

Roland Sledge



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All teenagers will recognize the consequences and parental responsibilities of teen births

☐ Continue state level support through grants for teen pregnancy prevention programs. Collaborative efforts between community partners.

The need for decreasing the children in need of supervisions (CHINS)

☐ Seek our state level support of programs directed to toward this. Create new resources with funding. Advertise

resources that are available. Recruit volunteers for community-based programs.

The need for decreasing the high school drop out rate

☐ Continued state level support of programs directed toward the reduction of the high school drop out rate. Collaborative efforts between community partners.

HEALTH

Every family in Chambers County will be aware of the health risks associated with childhood obesity

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identification of all resources available.
- ☐ Creatively advertise those resources and recruit recipients through community and schools.
- ☐ Encourage families and schools to recognize and respond to health risks associated with childhood obesity.

All teenagers will recognize the consequences and parental responsibilities of teen births

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Educate teenagers and their parents concerning the consequences and responsibilities of premarital sexual involvement.
- ☐ Utilize programs offered by local providers.
- ☐ Pursue a mentoring program.

Measures

- Baseline:** Percentage of children residing in Chambers County who are obese. This data is supplied by the Cooperative Extension.
- Goal:** A decrease in the percentage of children who are obese over the next year.
- Baseline:** The number of multiple pregnancies to teens less than 19 years of age as collected by the Health Department.
- Goal:** A decrease in the percentage of multiple pregnancies to teens less than 19 years of age over the next year.
- Baseline:** Ranked 59 in birth to unmarried teens in KIDS COUNT.
- Goal:** Improvement in KIDS COUNT ranking.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Childhood Obesity; CE1.
Explanation: Funding for educational awareness of childhood obesity issues.
- ☐ Information distribution; PH8.
Explanation: Distribute information about resources available and educational information concerning reducing the number of births to unmarried teens.
- ☐ Pregnancy, prevention, general; FD8.
Explanation: Continued support of school-based intervention/prevention programs.

SAFETY

Children in need of supervision

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create new resources.
- ☐ Advertise resources.
- ☐ Recruit volunteers for community based programs.

Juvenile Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Make referrals to drug rehabilitation agencies.
- ☐ Develop more resources for juveniles.
- ☐ Develop more testing tools.

Measures

- Baseline:** Gather statistics from Chambers County Department of Human Resources and Chambers County Juvenile Court.
- Goal:** Eight percent reduction of court and Human Resource referrals.
- Baseline:** Ranked 52nd in Start in KIDS COUNT.
- Goal:** Seven percent reduction in juvenile drug usage.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Increased funding to Chambers County through grants for children in need of supervision placement and services.
- ☐ Funding for drug rehabilitation and services for juveniles of Chamber County.

EDUCATION

The need for decreasing the High School drop out rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support local schools in whatever means possible.
- ☐ Educate the Community on the importance of education.
- ☐ Provide "Stay In School" programs to be offered to schools.

Increase collaboration between families, schools, and communities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide services to families to ensure academic involvement.
- ☐ Inform school personnel of service provider database and other resources.
- ☐ Provide parents with information of the importance of parent involvement.

Measures

- Baseline:** Ranked 33 in event drop out rate in KIDS COUNT.
- Goal:** Ten percent reduction of event drop out rate.
- Baseline:** Ranked 30 in projected drop out rate in KIDS COUNT.
- Goal:** Ten percent reduction of projected drop out rate.
- Baseline:** The past two years had consistent low parent involvement with local schools.
- Goal:** Ten percent increase in signatures of parent involvement sign-in sheets as collected by the schools.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Parent involvement; AD3.
Explanation: The promotion of The Parent Project along with Parent Involvement programs.
- ☐ Truancy Prevention/Intervention; AD6.
Explanation: Target at-risk youth in elementary schools to ensure more that they make more successful decisions later in their academic career.
- ☐ Information distribution; YD4.
Explanation: Providing students information concerning staying in school and other at-risk issues.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Parents need educational and work skills preparation to compete in the workforce to provide for families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase public awareness of existing resources.
- ☐ Motivate parents and children to pursue academic success.

Public transportation will be accessible to meet the needs of families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Evaluate existing resources.
- ☐ Explore resources for public transportation.
- ☐ Conduct survey to determine extent of need.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** School systems graduation rates.
Goal: Ten percent increase in high school student passing the graduation exam.
- ☐ **Baseline:** KIDS COUNT statistics on children living in poverty.
Goal: Five percent reduction of children living in poverty.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Existence of public transportation system.
Goal: Existence of public transportation system.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Funds of parent participation with schools by advertisements.
- ☐ Funds for public survey.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Every parent in Chambers County will be knowledgeable of and involved in early care services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Expand county's parent education program through hiring more educators.
- ☐ Assist Head Start in recruiting families and obtaining more sites.
- ☐ Partner with Head Start and Pre-K to encourage parental involvement in workshops.

Every child in Chambers County will have access to early care of home care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide more funding for child care sites.
- ☐ Provide additional funding for child care for working parents.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Ranked 36 in child poverty rate in KIDS COUNT.
Goal: Improvement in KIDS COUNT ranking.

- ☐ **Baseline:** Ranked 59 in vulnerable families rate in KIDS COUNT.
Goal: Improvement in KIDS COUNT ranking.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ More funding.
- ☐ Additional workers.
- ☐ Additional Sites.

Cherokee County

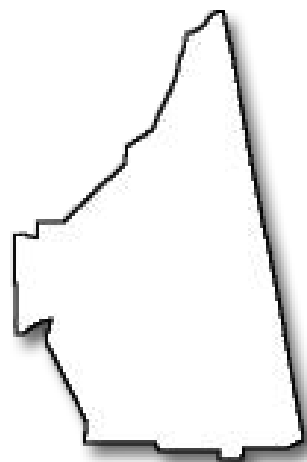
Cherokee County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Sheri W. Carver, District Court Judge

Cathy Miller
Sheila Hurley
Wayne Cochran
Barbara Day
Noah dobbins
Trina Fortner
Cassandra Foster
Linda A. Glass
Mark Green
Patrick Henry
Lou Honaker

Scott Hosey
Phillip W. Jordan
Jacquelin Kenner
Tom Kelly
Dr. Thomas Leach
Rep. Richard Lindsey
Scott C. Lloyd
Lori Lumsden
Kenny Maniss
Sarah Moseley
Tom Oliver

Joy Perry
Joan Rogers
Tim Sauls
Jeff Shaver
Cassie Shields
Albert L. Shumaker
Donna Todd
Anna Marie Wright
Sheriff Roy Wynn



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Cherokee County Families will be economically secure

- ☐ Adequate mental health service will be available.
- ☐ Local programs for At-Risk Cherokee county families will be available.
- ☐ Cherokee County families will be aware of Adult Education services.
- ☐ Encourage parental involvement.
- ☐ Provide a school social worker.

Cherokee County children will grow up safe and healthy

- ☐ Cherokee County children will be free of abuse and neglect.
- ☐ Cherokee County children will have access to a Medicaid dentist.
- ☐ Cherokee County children will have access to adequate Mental Health Services.

- ☐ Cherokee County children will have access to a school resource officer.
- ☐ Cherokee County children will have access to Alcohol, Tobacco, and other drugs (A.T.O.D.) prevention programs.
- ☐ Cherokee County children and families will be made aware of existing services.
- ☐ Provide a school social worker.

Cherokee County Children will be successful in school and employable

- ☐ Ages 0-5 coordination and centralization of services.
- ☐ Sufficient Pre-K education services for children.
- ☐ Pre-K through grade 3 focus on reading.
- ☐ Reading remediation and instruction for grades 4-12.
- ☐ Providing an alternative education program.
- ☐ Provide dropout recovery programs.
- ☐ Encourage parental involvement in education.
- ☐ Provide a school social worker.

HEALTH

Lack of mental health services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support the extension of school based counseling services currently being provided through the Children's Advocacy Center.
- ☐ Coordinate efforts with CED Mental Health to provide mental health services for the youth in Cherokee County.
- ☐ Educate the public and community leaders about the lack of mental health services for the youth in Cherokee County. Gain the support of community leaders to expand services in the county.

Establish a Medicaid dentist in Cherokee County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Communicate the need for a Medicaid Dentist in Cherokee County to Medicaid office in Montgomery. Mrs. Tina Edwards contact person (334) 242-5000.
- ☐ Identify any Rural Incentives currently being offered to Dentists. Educate prospective dentists about the incentives and the potential for growth in Cherokee County. Prospects will be identified through dental schools located within the state of Alabama.
- ☐ Identify any dentist willing to establish a satellite office to be located Centre and willing to accept Medicaid.

Measures

Baseline: Currently there is only one person located in the county providing limited counseling services within the school system and only during the school year.

Goal: Increase the number of individual counselors providing services within Cherokee County.

Baseline: Currently there are no Medicaid dental providers serving Cherokee County.

Goal: Increase the number of Medicaid dental providers serving Cherokee County to 1.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Increase the amount of funding for providing mental health services to the youth of our county through grants and local monies; MH6, MH8, MH7, YD7.

☐ Recruit a Medicaid dentist to locate in Cherokee County; PH2, PH5, PH6, PH10

SAFETY

Children with indications of abuse or neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ A school social worker will be added to each school in Cherokee Co.

☐ An At-Risk counselor will be added to each school in Cherokee Co.

☐ Prevention Programs will be implemented in every school in Cherokee County.

High incidence of use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (A.T.O.D.) by children in Cherokee County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Increase the number of prevention specialists and programs to provide education in Cherokee County Schools

☐ Prevention programs to be implemented in every school in Cherokee County.

☐ All individuals who have complaints filed against them (including parents) in the Cherokee County Juvenile Court will be required to participate in a program/video related to A.T.O.D. or referred to Parent Project sponsored by the Cherokee County Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council.

Measures

Kids Count 2002: Child Death Rate, Children with Indication of abuse or neglect

Cherokee County

Baseline: Ranked 63rd in the State for Child Death Rate; Ranked 66th in the State for children with indication of abuse or neglect.

Goal: To provide more counseling, social work and prevention services in Cherokee County.

☐ Kids County 2002.

Baseline: Ranked 62nd in the State for juvenile substance abuse court referral rate.

Goal: To provide A.T.O.D. prevention services for children and parent Education for individual in Cherokee County.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Provide social workers, counselors in Cherokee County to act as liaison between students, parents, and school/community, and social services; YD2.

☐ Provide A.T.O.D. prevention programs in each school with science-based strategies. Provide Parent Project, Inc. (parenting classes) for parents in Cherokee County; MH1, MH4.

EDUCATION

Lowering the drop out rate

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Alternative Education Program.

☐ K-12 Reading Program.

☐ Single Parenting Program.

Provide safe environment to learn

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ School Resource Officer.

☐ Parent Project.

☐ Counseling Services provided by Children's Advocacy Center.

Measures

☐ Dropout Projection-AL Dept. of Education Report Card.

Baseline: 23.04%

Goal: 20.00%

☐ Number of students referred to Alternative School for drugs, weapons, or violent acts.

Baseline: 23

Goal: 20

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Alternative School Program; AD1.

Explanation: day school, technical career instruction.

☐Family Violence Prevention/Intervention; FD2.

Explanation: Counseling Services-Children's Advocacy Center.

☐Delinquency Prevention/Intervention; YD3.

Explanation: School Resource Officers (2).

☐Parent Involvement; YD7.

Explanation: Parent Project Parenting Class.

☐Parenting Education/General Skills Development; FD6.

Explanation: Single Parenting Program.

☐Tutoring/Academic Counseling; AD7.

Explanation: After School Tutoring.

☐Tutoring/Academic Counseling During School; AD8.

Explanation: Teacher/ Administration Training, Reading Lab Development.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Cherokee County students/ citizens will have the education necessary to be highly employable

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Cherokee County will collaborate with existing agencies within and outside the county to provide services to students who are at risk of dropping out of school or who have already dropped out of school.

☐Cherokee County Board of Education, family physicians, pediatricians, and other agencies will assist in identifying economically at-risk families and drop-out students.

☐The Cherokee County Children's Policy Council will advocate for a program to provide dropout recovery to students who have been identified that will utilize the functions of the services of the Youth Development Facilitator (YDF) or services similar to those the YDF provides as well as to offer case management, licensed counseling services, health and mental health, and other wrap around services.

☐Those individuals, who are identified for dropout recovery, will be provided the opportunity to re-enroll into school, into an alternative school, or will be able to study and take their G.E.D enabling them to qualify for academic credentials (i.e.; high school diploma or equivalent).

☐Those who are in the program, will likely be eligible for post secondary education should they choose to continue their education.

Cherokee County children will be raised in economically secure homes

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Identify economically at-risk single and divorced parents with children in Cherokee County.

☐Advocate for the creation of programs and services that assist single or divorced parents with children that include educational services, transportation, budgeting and finance counseling, childcare, emergency assistance, job training, etc.

☐Cherokee County Children's Policy Council will request funding for a public service announcement to make people more aware of existing financial services, JOBS Program, or other services to the public.

Measures

☐Kids Count 2002: Vulnerable Families.

Baseline: Rank of 44 in the State with a worsening trend.

Goal: Stabilize and improve Cherokee Counties Rank.

☐Kids Count 2002: Event Dropout Rate.

Baseline: 63 Students Dropped out of school.

Goal: There will be a 10% increase in the number of dropout students who receive academic credentials (i.e., a high school diploma or equivalent).

☐Kids Count 2002: Children in Poverty.

Baseline: 1,062 Cherokee County children are living in poverty.

Goal: Reduction of Children in poverty by 5%.

☐Kids Count 2002: Single Parent Families.

Baseline: 53.9% increase in the number of single parent families between 1990 and 2000.

Goal: Improve the economic security of identified segment of the population by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐A program that includes recruitment of dropout students that identifies, screens/test, credentialing (High School diploma, GED), provides counseling (mental health/career), transportation, job placement, job shadowing, team building, etc. so that participants will be able to have assistance in the removal of barriers that would otherwise prevent them from being highly employable; ED1, ED3, ED9, ED11, MH6, AD1, OS2.

☐Program that assists single or divorced parents who are economically at-risk; ED1, ED3, OS4, OS2, ED9, FD3.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Lack of coordination and centralization of services from

zero to 5 years population in Cherokee County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Conduct current needs assessment.
- ☐ With collaborative agencies, form a Kidstuff partnership.

3. Employ part time director to coordinate all zero to 5 services.

Lack of sufficient Pre-K education experience for four year olds

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Do yearly survey to determine the number of four-year olds unserved by Head Start or School System Pre-K site.
- ☐ Approach Head Start regarding the viability of adding services to four-year olds.
- ☐ School system Pre-K coordinator to write grant to obtain additional Pre-K sites

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count 2002.

Baseline: First grade retention has increased by 27%.

Goal: To establish early care and education committee on zero to five service agencies in the county.

- ☐ Current school system statistics.

Baseline: Head Start sites available at all schools except Gaylesville; an additional 45 to 50 four year olds ***go unserved in the county each year.***

Goal: To obtain two additional Pre-K sites by 2004-05 school year.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Coordinate through one agency for all services 0-5; CD1.

Explanation: Insufficient collaboration and coordination.

- ☐ Provide adequate Pre-K services to all areas of the count; CD3.

Explanation: Currently only two Pre-K services are available.

Chilton County

Chilton County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Rhonda Jones Hardesty, District Court Judge

Winifred Adams

Ron Kendall

Turner J. Sims

Lexis Ambrose

Pat Seales

Corp. Deena Pregno

Hal Taylor

Mildred Ellison

M.L. Red Turnipseed

Ludean Hicks

Randall Houston

Rep. Jimmy Martin

Carl Allen Wyatt

Sheriff Billy Fulmer

Curtis Smith

Richard Moore

Derrell Fancher

Mike Bearden

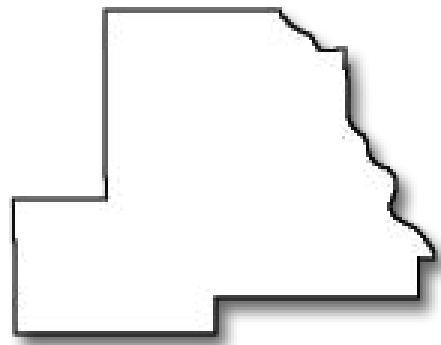
Donny Finlayson

Elizabeth H. Hunley

Ronnie Mitchell

Janice Hull

David Karn



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services

☐ A public system accessible to parents with no income.

Insure all children

☐ Continue to seek funding to insure all low income and Hispanic children.

Safe and drug free homes

☐ Continue Court Referral Program for parents and adolescents.

HEALTH

Transportation to Appointments

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Lynn Hall and DHR to receive vans for JARC Transit within county.

☐ Judge Hardesty met with Baptist Women to help transport.

☐ Kid 1 Transport.

County wide medical coverage for children

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Covering Kids Grant- Marty Rittman.

☐ Caring Foundation BC/BS information provided to public.

☐ Encourage participants to train and work with Hispanic families.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Reduce from 0 Hispanic children insured to 100+ children insured.

☐ **Baseline:** Increase # of donations by local businesses to caring Foundation for BC/BS.

☐ **Baseline:** Sign up Hispanic children for insurance through National Grant with Dr. Christine Creuz.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Increase distribution of applications for insurance.

☐ Reapply for grants to insure Hispanic children.

☐ Distribute Medicaid information into schools for parents.

SAFETY

Drug and Alcohol Free Homes

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Ads and articles in local paper.

☐ Continue Court Referral Program with Isabella Hood.

Child Protection within the home

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Help establish a "Child Protect" interview office/station in Chilton County.

☐ Make public aware of help for abuse through DHR programs.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Chilton/Shelby adult and adolescent drug program increase the number of parents participating in Court Referral Program.

- ☐ **Baseline:** Increase number of children interviewed for sexual abuse in Chilton Co. and decrease number referred to Jefferson or Montgomery County.
- ☐ **Baseline:** All services to be localized to have a healthy home environment.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Juvenile Drug Programs with Court Referral Officer-Isabella Hood.
- ☐ Family Resource Center.
- ☐ In home counselors provided by DHR such as Teal Dick and Family Options.

EDUCATION

Drop Out Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Partners in Education to motivate high school.
- ☐ Business participation in tours of plants such as KMA, CMA.

Exit Exam Pass/Failure Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Tutor Program.
- ☐ Mentors in schools increase.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** We are seeing a 10% decrease in the dropout rate-State Education; State score card- up from D- to C-.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Mentor Program participation is up 6%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Number of students passing Exit Exam.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ FAST- Families in School Together formed.
- ☐ Safe and drug free schools research.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Child Support Payments

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish paternity on fathers/infants.

Job Training

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ DHR- JOBS Program.
- ☐ On site training a low skilled plants.
- ☐ Encourage State Employment Service.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Collections of child support up by 12% DHR reports.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Unemployment rate decreased to 4.3 in 2002-2003.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ GED programs.
- ☐ Availability of job training.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

After School Programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Project Gear.
- ☐ Elementary K-4 after school tutorial.
- ☐ Enrollment availability.

Education/Awareness of Programs Available

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Research enrollment 2002-2003.
- ☐ Advertisement articles in local.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Increase number of tutors.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Head Start waiting list.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Spanish speaking teachers.
- ☐ Funds for Government/ Education employee to learn Conversational Spanish.

Choctaw County

Choctaw County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Pedro Scurlock III, District Court Judge

Karen Enstrom
Samuel Gilliland
Bob Ramsey
Dr. John Myrick
Karen Enstrom
Barbara Shoemaker
Robert Keahey
Hon. Michael Armistead

Don Lolley
Elaine Alberson
Perry Newton
Gracie Pickens
David Sparrow
John Ollison
Linda Gaines
Joyce Dixon

Betty Merritt
Mary Ann Warren
Sen.. W. H. Lindsey
Rep. Jeff Dolbare
Sen. Hank Sanders
Rep. Thomas Jackson



HEALTH

Lack of transportation for children who need to go to yearly checkups/doctor's appointments

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Approach churches to ask for buses and vans to be used for transportation.
- ☐ Approach ambulance service to see if they will be willing to transport for non-emergency use.
- ☐ Seek funding.

Teen Pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Expand teen pregnancy program through Choctaw County Extension system.
- ☐ Expand the Nurse Family Partnership Program through Choctaw County Department of Public Health.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Presently, none existing for children.
- Goal:** Some services providing transportation.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Voices
- Goal:** Reduce teen pregnancy.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ For the state to fund a satellite facility in the south end of the county.
- ☐ Increase funding.

SAFETY

Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with District Attorney's Office in effort to get stiffer punishments.
- ☐ Ask DYS to assess Choctaw County's need for a Youth facility locally.
- ☐ Public awareness.

Juvenile Violent Crime Referral Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Research a Boys/Girls Club and Family Resource Center
- ☐ Encourage stiffer punishments.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Voices.
- Goal:** Reduce by 4% (Issue #1).
- ☐ **Baseline:** Voices.
- Goal:** Reduce by 4% (Issue #2).

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Choctaw County need for the state to evaluate funding for DYS facility.
- ☐ Pass law - Juveniles 16 and above can be housed in the same facility as adults. (Not in the same cell).

EDUCATION

Literacy Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support teachers.
- ☐ Identify youth who are weaker in reading and math early. (Prior to retention).

Drop Out Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Share information to identify children and youth who are at risk.
- ☐ Communication between agencies.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Rate listed on website.
Goal: 5% reduction.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Utilize report by state education.
Goal: Reduce by 5%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Specialize educations.
- ☐ Tutoring service.
- ☐ I.D. grants for Choctaw County to provide tutoring and mentoring service.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of Job Skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop a career link.

Lack of Life Skills (Protocol in work ethics)

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ DHR to provide training.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Adult education, literacy.
- ☐ Funding for job training/career planning.
- ☐ Business/Industry partnership.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Lack of Pre-K Site for 4 Year Olds. (Expansion is needed)

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Ask Head Start Program at the State Level to come to Choctaw County. Develop sub committee.
- ☐ Groups need to work together.
- ☐ Invite regional person to meet with Choctaw Children's Policy Council.

Immunization

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase rate of immunization for children 0-5.
- ☐ Investigate all kids to assist with funding for shots.

Measure:

- ☐ **Baseline:** The number of existing sites and slots.
Goal: Increase in sites/slots.

Clarke County

Clarke County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon William E. Kimbrough, District Court Judge

Cym Doggett
Barbara McMillan
Turner Sims
Jean Stewart
Bert Moore
Gerald Stephens
Randy Jones

Shelia Stewart
Jack Day
Robert Keahey
Sen. W H Lindsey III
Rep. Jeff Dolbare
Rep. Thomas Jackson
Sen. Hank Sanders

Jackie Thompson
Gina Fleming
Henry Smiley
Linda Deas
Mike Norris
Eleanor Parker
Asberry Daffin III



HEALTH

To target children ages birth to 19 years who are at risk for physical health deficits

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ To provide dental screenings twice each year for all children ages 3-19 years.
- ☐ To provide annual vision and hearing screenings for ages 3-19 years.
- ☐ To provide education to promote healthy eating habits thereby reducing the incidents of eating disorders such as anorexia and obesity.

To target children ages birth - 19 who are at risk for behavioral crisis

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ To employ licensed social workers/nurse case managers to provide case management services to grades K-12.
- ☐ To provide parenting seminars for families of at-risk children ages 3-19 years.
- ☐ Increase staff.

To target children ages 18 and under who are engaged in sexual behaviors

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ To provide ongoing abstinence-based education through community entities.
- ☐ To offer alternative methods for the prevention of pregnancy and STD transmission.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Screenings are available to elementary school ages only.
- Goal:** To expand existing services to the target population of ages 3-19 years.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Currently there are no services available to meet this need.
- Goal:** To provide parenting seminars for families of at-risk children ages 3-19 years. To provide case management services for children ages 3-19 years.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Eighty-two cases of STD's in children ages 15-19 years old identified in 2001.
- Goal:** To reduce the incidents of STD's in this group by 10%.

SAFETY

To provide a non-traumatizing place for children to be interviewed by a forensic child abuse/neglect expert

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ To create a Child Advocacy Center for Clarke County.
- ☐ To develop a telemedicine program to assist in collecting evidence during investigations of child abuse/neglect.
- ☐ To pursue the hiring of an investigator through the office of the District Attorney to conduct investigations in partnership with the Child Advocacy Center.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Currently no Child Advocacy Center exists in Clarke County.
- Goal:** To initiate development of a Child Advocacy Center as listed in Action Steps.

Baseline: Currently poor coordination exists among investigating agencies resulting in multiple interviews and interviews involved with the child.

Goal: To develop protocol for abuse investigations whereby on expert interviewer conducts the investigation utilizing telemedicine capabilities.

Baseline: Currently multiple investigators are used to conduct investigations.

Goal: To initiate the hiring of a forensic expert investigator as listed in Action Steps.

EDUCATION

To develop minimum standards for all children entering 1st grade

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop an accurate curriculum for all potential 1st grade students.
- ☐ To make this curriculum available to all parents of potential 1st graders.
- ☐ To seek endorsement of curriculum by local boards and the Children's Policy Council.

To develop a program offering alternative to college for 11th and 12th graders

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ To offer a career day focusing on vocational, technical, and military training.
- ☐ To rotate this training annually among high school hosts.
- ☐ To offer a program to improve testing skills.

Measures

Baseline: Currently no such curriculum is available to ensure readiness for 1st grade.

Goal: To make available a curriculum of minimum standards for 1st grade readiness.

Baseline: Currently services focus only on college bound students.

Goal: To extend existing career day format to include programs for non-college bound students.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

The children of Clarke County have economic resources to

meet basic needs and provide for future self-sufficiency

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Child support collection projects to provide for basic needs of children.

☐ Enhance parents ability to provide for children through JOBS, GED, technical training, vocational rehabilitation, etc.

☐ Focus on training for high school dropouts.

Measures

Baseline: Only 56.9% of court-ordered child support was collected in 2002 in Clarke County.

Goal: Increase collection rate through community awareness campaign.

Baseline: Nearly 30% of Clarke County's children live in poverty.

Goal: Reduce by 5% the children living in poverty by creating economic opportunities for their parents.

Baseline: Currently there are no programs for high school dropouts.

Goal: To develop a plan for matching dropouts with possible career interest and to develop new programs per assessed needs of dropouts.

Clay County

Clay County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. George C. Simpson, District Court Judge

Lisa Allen

Joanne Blair

Jonathan Davis

Daniel Dean

Sen. Gerald Dial

Tod Hatfield

Rep. Richard Laird

Annie Latham

Karen McKinney

April Saxon

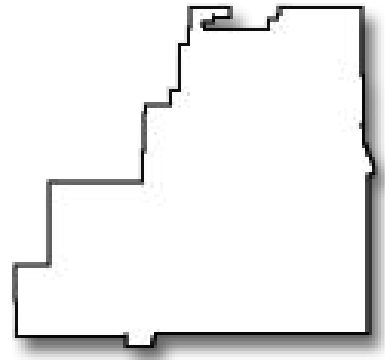
Gina Simpson

Fred Thompson

Nell West

John Wheelles

Kathy Williams



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

County Needs Assessment not available

Cleburne County

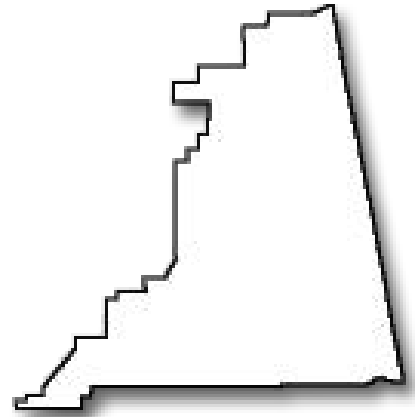
Cleburne County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Warren Glea Sarrell, Jr., District Court Judge

Deborah Mathews
Darrell Durham
Ryan Robertson
Richard Lindsey
Patrick Casey
Jennifer Johnson
Danny Mobley
Billy Morris

Keith Dear
Samuel Bates
Mickey Turner
Mary Davis
Eleanor Walker
Elvin D. Henson
Joseph Brown
Kathy Sage

Kathy Williams
Patrick Henry
Peggy Collum
Rudy Payne
Tonya Champion
Melody Gibbs
Dora I. Jones



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All Children have a safe and healthy life

☐ Provide funding for local substance abuse programs that address the needs of all age groups. Enable agencies to offer knowledge and training to the local community regarding child abuse and neglect. Provide funding for a nurse in each school. Promote programs that ensure pre-natal care is available for every new mother. Promote programs that provide Dental and Primary Health Care for all children.

All Children have greater and improved opportunities to succeed

☐ Improve services for at-risk children. Continue to provide school social workers to address social or emotional problems that prevent or interfere with a child succeeding in school or in the community. Proper

intervention and referrals could promote success and inhibit further involvement with the child-care system or with the juvenile court. Promote the continuation of the programs provided by the Work Enforcement Act. The Youth Development Facilitator is one such program that provides aid to underprivileged children who are no longer in school.

All Children have access to available resources

☐ Provide Funding for affordable and available transportation. Rural counties have a difficult time getting people to services that are available. Public transportation is available in Cleburne County to only a portion of the County. We would like to see programs taken to the community and made available when parents and children are able to participate.

HEALTH

Quality Health Care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with the Cleburne County Health Department to provide a Teen Pregnancy Program in the schools.
- ☐ Investigate any problems with minority pre-natal care.
- ☐ Promote Health Clinics that will address all types of care including dental care.

Insurance Coverage for All Children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote CHIPS enrollment/Medicaid.
- ☐ Sponsor Health Fairs with sign-up booths for All Kids Insurance..

Cleburne County

Measures

- ☐ Baseline:** Per the Cleburne County Health Department, as of 2000 the pregnancy rate for girls ages 10-19 was 62.2%.
- Goal:*** Reduce the percentage of pregnancies by 5%.
- ☐ Baseline:** All Kids enrollment for March 2003 was listed as 268 and Medicaid enrollment for December 2002 was at 944.
- Goal:*** Our numbers are increasing but we want all children in Cleburne County to have insurance.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide funding for teen pregnancy prevention programs; FD8.
- Explanation: Teenage pregnancy rates appear to be increasing for Cleburne County.*
- ☐ Provide continued and additional funding for school nurses; PH6.

Explanation: Serious health problems are still becoming a common problem that schools must address.

☐ Provide continued funding for CHIPS/Medicaid; PH5.

Explanation: All children should have access to quality health care.

☐ Provide funding for Health Clinics that provide primary health care and dental care; PH5

Explanation: Children in small counties have to travel out of county for basic health care. There are few doctors/dentists who take Medicaid. Transportation continues to be a problem for rural counties.

SAFETY

Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Cleburne County Children's Policy Council will promote more mental health counseling that addresses substance abuse.

☐ The Council will work to increase the amount of time a Substance Abuse Counselor is in the County.

☐ The Council will collaborate and coordinate the resources of different agencies to present Substance Abuse Prevention Programs to the schools and to the communities.

☐ The Council will promote safety measures in the schools.

Abuse/Neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Cleburne County Children's Policy Council will participate in DHR's efforts to provide more foster homes in the county.

☐ The Council will be involved in promoting Parenting Programs such as Parent Project® that address behavior problems.

☐ The Council will work to promote more mental health counseling that is of longer duration and offers more intense work with families.

Measures

Baseline: In 2002, a study was conducted by members of the Cleburne County Quality Assurance Committee on 100% of the open Foster Care Cases in Cleburne County. In 89% of those cases, abuse of drugs or alcohol was a factor that presented unmanageable risks in the home at the time of DHR involvement. Because of intoxication or drugs, 39% of those parents were incapacitated.

Goal: Reduce substance abuse by 5% in Cleburne County.

Baseline: Alabama Kids Count 2002 ranks Cleburne County as 67 out of 67 counties under indicated abuse or neglect. As noted above, substance abuse plays a heavy role in cases involved with DHR.

Goal: Reduce Abuse/Neglect by 100%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Continue to provide funding for Social workers in Schools; FD1.

Explanation: Services have been provided to families not involved with the system and are including prevention resources.

☐ Continued and increased funding for Foster Care; FD2.

Explanation: Services are better provided when families are kept as close as possible, children do not have to change schools and are still near a familiar support system.

☐ Provide funding for more local mental health counselors; MH4.

Explanation: There is only a satellite office in Cleburne County. There is one counselor for adolescents and family counseling who is able to see clients once a month. There are no local programs addressing substance abuse problems on a consistent basis.

☐ Provide funding for parenting programs; FD6.

Explanation: Programs are needed to assist parents with improving parenting skills to aid in managing behavior in an appropriate manner.

☐ Resource person in the schools; AD3.

Explanation: Parental involvement has fallen off in the schools. A resource person would provide a way to get parents involved and work with programs regarding substance abuse, anger management, safety, conflict resolution and other issues.

EDUCATION

Quality Education

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Council will promote fair and equitable funding reform for all students across the state.

☐ Investigate resources to help provide extended day programs and summer programs.

☐ Continue to promote a safe school environment by applying for grants for security equipment for the schools.

Drop-out Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Work to provide a resource person for the schools to aid in increasing parental involvement.

- ☐ Encourage the involvement of parents in the Parent Project® offered by the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program.
- ☐ Encourage enforcement of loss of driver's license by those not in school and investigate ways to report drop-outs to the Department of Public Safety.
- ☐ Work with the Work Enforcement Act Programs to aid underprivileged youth in and out of school.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Cleburne County is sixth from the bottom in the State in local funding for education.
- ☐ **Goal:** Increase funding statewide to meet the needs of each child.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Kids Count shows that the event drop out rate has increased 2.4% from the base year and Cleburne County ranks 47 in the State.
- ☐ **Goal:** Decrease by 5%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Fund each child in Alabama equally for education; AD9.
Explanation: Poorer counties do not have the tax base or resources of the more affluent counties.
- ☐ Continue support for WIA Programs; ED9.
Explanation: There have been success stories of youth who were able to get back in school, begin work on their GED's and find jobs because of the WIA programs.
- ☐ Continue funding for School Social Workers; FD1.
Explanation: This program has been successful in providing multiple services for children and families without court intervention and was also a resource for Juvenile Probation Services. Children were provided with counseling services, tutoring services and other appropriate referrals to meet their needs.
- ☐ Continue funding for reading reform programs; AD5.
Explanation: Each child should be reading at or above the third grade level when they leave the third grade.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Poverty

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The Council will continue to work on the resource directory and will investigate ways to inform the community of available resources.
- ☐ The Council will look at ways to involve churches and private agencies in aiding children living in poverty.
- ☐ The Council will devise a report card that will show a more accurate accounting of the numbers for Cleburne County to ensure that the County is not under-reporting.

Low Income Per Capita

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The Council will support the efforts of the Industrial Development Board.
- ☐ Council members will be encouraged to take the Intensive Economic Development Short Course offered by Auburn University.
- ☐ Ecological tourism will be promoted.
- ☐ Volunteer resources will be provided for attracting retirees.
- ☐ The Council will continue to support the Youth Development Facilitator.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** The rate of children living in poverty according to Kids Count for Cleburne County is 16.1%.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce by 2%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** In 2003, a total of 130 jobs were lost in the city of Heflin where Cleburne County's three major industries are located.
- ☐ **Goal:** Provide job opportunities for all county and city residents.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Continue efforts in attracting industry to Alabama and provide help to existing industry in retention and expansion; ED11.
- ☐ Fund programs that would address the vocational needs of area residents and students; ED9.
Explanation: The Youth Development Facilitator has provided assistance to youth in Cleburne County.
- ☐ Funding for Transportation; OS2.
Explanation: Rural counties have a need for affordable and reliable transportation programs. In Cleburne County, the public transportation available does not serve the entire county.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

School Readiness

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The Council will encourage members to serve on grant writing committees in an effort to obtain funds to duplicate the Pleasant Grove school process and have school based and/or affordable pre-k programs. A grant was applied for and granted for Pleasant Grove Elementary School.

- ❑The council will develop and distribute brochures, and news articles to raise community awareness of the need for early education. The Council will also support and encourage community volunteerism and support legislation for increased funding and changes in the law that would place pre-k programs in each school system.
- ❑Encourage pre-k and day care providers and others dealing with young children to improve their skills in the care they give to children.

Healthy Children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑The Council will look for ways to distribute information about All Kids Insurance and will be involved in sponsoring health fairs at local industries and work places.
- ❑The Council will promote and support ways to supply the county with more local health care providers who will accept Medicaid.

Measures

- ❑**Baseline:** One pre-k program in the school system for 4year olds.
- Goal:** Increase the capacity at Pleasant Grove School and have Pre-K programs in every elementary school in the county.
- ❑**Baseline:** All Kids enrollment for March 2003 was at 268 and Medicaid enrollment for December 2002 was 944.
- Goal:** Every child will have health insurance.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑Provide grant funding for more Pre-K programs; CD3.
Explanation: Increase funding to include three year olds.
- ❑Funding for educating the public; CD6.
Explanation: Parents should be made aware of what resources are available and how to access available resources.
- ❑Legislation for Pre-k Programs; CD7.
Explanation: Every School system should have pre-k programs. Included in this legislation would be money for facilities and transportation. Space is limited in schools. Residents of rural counties have problems with transportation.

Coffee County

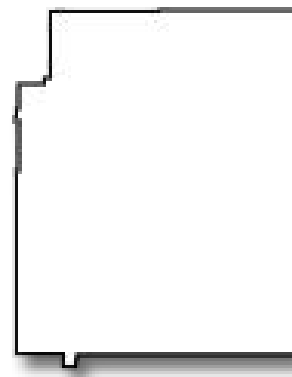
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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The children of Coffee County will grow up healthy

The children of Coffee County will grow up in a safe environment

The children of Coffee County will be in an economically stable family

☐ Change One-Stop policies that inhibit low-literacy

applicants by providing one-on-one assistance in the One-Stop Centers.

☐ Modify Rehabilitation Services policies to increase outcome goals beyond minimum wage jobs. (i.e. disabled adults may need to stay in sheltered workshop or other environment to achieve self-sufficiency).

☐ Increase funding for family resource centers

☐ Increase public health funding for pregnancy prevention programs.

☐ Simplify child-restraint law.

☐ Increase awareness of juvenile substance abuse.

HEALTH

Obesity in Children

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Coordinate with school nurses and local agencies to identify obese children in the community using BMI guidelines.

☐ Develop an interagency plan to coordinate community education for obese children and their families to include involvement by school nurses, medical personnel, WIC, Food Stamps, Extension System and others.

Need for Local Services for Child Advocacy

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Develop a plan for county wide needs assessment for coordination of local services for children in need of Child Advocacy services.

Dental Care for Medicaid Eligible Children

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Actively support Health Department/Family Services efforts to provide dental services for children.

☐ Facilitate transportation for children in the Elba and Coffee County school systems for dental care.

☐ Recruit additional dentists to provide services in the Children's Dental Clinic.

Teen Pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Public Health nurse will coordinate with public schools in "Futures" program.

☐ Council will identify, support and publicize existing pregnancy prevention programs within the community.

SAFETY

Family Violence

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote awareness of the possible sign of family violence.
- ☐ Organize community education forum.
- ☐ Advocate for open accessibility to family counseling.

Concern for juvenile substance abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support interagency programs in efforts to provide drug abuse interventions.
- ☐ Consider family-friendly educational approach to making healthy choices.
- ☐ Encourage families to learn about the availability of parent administered screens for substance abuse.

Internet Safety

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide Internet awareness workshops.
- ☐ Provide information on software filtering products.
- ☐ Provide information on personal identification safety.

EDUCATION

Inadequate support for children in the after school hours

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek funding for after school/extended day programs located in schools.

Adverse effect of increased social and emotional needs of the students on student achievement and attendance

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Facilitate increased awareness of these needs among the various agencies in the county that work with children.
- ☐ Coordinate interagency activities that address the social/emotional needs of children.

Increased concern for the safety of children while at school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seed funding for communication equipment and services that would enhance safety of children while at school.
- ☐ Seek funding for in-school suspension programs and implement effective, proven strategies for the programs.
- ☐ Encourage families to learn about the availability of parent administered screens for substance abuse.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of employment opportunities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage the necessity of all agencies addressing barriers to employment.
- ☐ Seek out unconventional means of finding employment and compensation for these barriers through agencies who can offer one-on-one problem solving.
- ☐ Provide agency cross training in order to help families find the resources they need.

Development of Youth Workforce

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Advocate coordination of effort with educational institutions, local governments, Economic Development, Chambers of Commerce and job training and job placement institutions to improve access to education and jobs for youth.
- ☐ Facilitate increased emphasis on training and education for teen parents.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

There is a need to increase opportunities for training/education parents in the role of parenting

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide more parent sharing sessions.

- ❑ Provide extrinsic motivators for attendance.
- ❑ Network between community agencies, law enforcement, and the schools to stimulate parent interest and increase available speakers to lead these sessions.

Lessen the impact of negative influences, such as drugs, inappropriate uses of technology, media, etc. on young children's growth and development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Educate parents through community meetings on the proper use of media and technology in the home.
- ❑ Proclaim a night of "no television" in each home of the community.
- ❑ The public libraries, along with county school systems, will sponsor an "Evening of Reading" in each school.

Increase educational opportunities for children prior to entry into kindergarten

Policy Council Action Steps

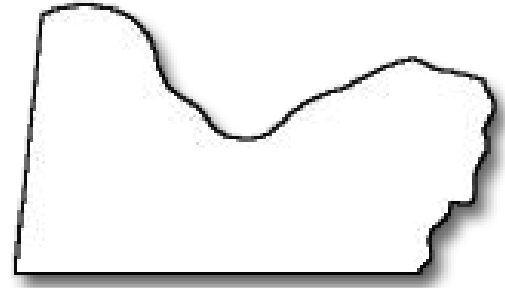
- ❑ Form a collaboration with local child care providers and local school systems to provide inservice programs and training for child staff members.
- ❑ Share school resources with child care providers in an effort to prepare their students for kindergarten entry.
- ❑ School systems and community agencies will partner with child care providers presenters to lead parent sharing sessions in an effort to assist parents.

Colbert County

Colbert County Children's Policy Council Members

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Sen. Bobby Denton	Dr. Jim Douglas	Revea Weddington
Carolyn Wagnon	Robert Matthews	Donna Dupree
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Emmitt Jimmar	Dr. Richard Gardner	



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Education and Treatment Program for Multi-Needs children and their families

☐ Provide funds, staff and transportation for an education and treatment program for multi-needs children and their families.

Family Resource Center

☐ Provide funds and support for a Shoals Area Family Resource Center.

Transportation to community service centers

☐ Fund adequate transportation for children and families to community service and health care centers.

HEALTH

Children will have local access to basic health services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Children will have access to one-stop at risk evaluation for their physical, educational and mental health needs.
- ☐ Children will be enrolled in health insurance programs such as Medicaid, All-Kids, or the Child Caring Foundation.
- ☐ Children will be immunized.
- ☐ Eligible children birth to age 5 will be enrolled in the WIC program.

A multi-agency Treatment Program that provides physical, mental/behavioral and Prevention/educational services will be available for all children of Colbert County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Processes will be established for agencies to uniformly identify special needs children in the area and bring them to the attention of other agencies.
- ☐ Identify available agencies resources (funds, facilities, personnel, etc.) that may be directed to a Treatment Program and provide services.
- ☐ Promote programs directed toward prevention of abuse of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs by children and adolescents, (such as "Operation Save Teens" by Agent Mike Reese).

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count.
Baseline: Colbert County has 18% children living in poverty.
Goal: Decrease percentage.
- ☐ Covering Kids.
Baseline: Data reports that 10% of children in Alabama under the age of 18 are uninsured.
Goal: Decrease percentage.
- ☐ Kids Count.
Baseline: According to Kids Count, cases of juvenile substance abuse arrest tend to increase, mostly in ages 10 to 17.
Goal: Decrease cases.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ Fund health and insurance programs for Alabama children; CD2, YD2, PH1, PH5, PH7, PH9.

Explanation: Health and insurance programs would help Alabama children to live healthier lives.

☐ Fund treatment programs for children and adolescents; MH1, MH2, MH3, MH4, FH2.

Explanation: Preventive and treatment measure will decrease cases and repeaters.

SAFETY

Juvenile Crime - Colbert County needs a juvenile Court program to address needs of repeat offenders

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Appoint a committee to design a diversion program for first-time offenders and their families.

☐ Appoint a program director and establish protocol guidelines.

☐ Secure funding.

Child Abuse and Neglect - Colbert County needs a program that can identify children being subject to abuse and neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Draw information from existing databases to identify children suffering from abuse and neglect.

☐ Obtain passage of legislation that would allow this information to be accessed.

☐ Appoint a committee to establish and administer a parenting program to prevent second abuse/neglect incidents.

Measures

Baseline: AOC date base records the number of cases or juvenile offenses filed each year. Begin work with the number of Juveniles in the past year who have been referred to DYS, transferred to Adult Court or charged as adults.

Goal: Reduce the number of juvenile offenders in Colbert County Courts last year by one half.

Baseline: Begin with abuse and neglect reports made to DHR and explores how other child service providers and educators can identify others. Work early

with children who exhibit early indications of abuse and neglect.

Goal: Drastically reduce incidents of abuse and neglect by identifying the problem and providing family treatment and support at a very early stage.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ Provide funding and staffing for county diversion programs to prevent repeat offenses; YD2, YD3, YD5, YD7.

Explanation: Teens and their families need to understand the importance of good choices and consequences of criminal behaviors.

☐ Build database/network system to connect health, development, mental health, education and welfare records with ability to identify "red flags" indicating children at risk. YD2, YD3, YD4, YD8, FD1, FD2, FD6, AD6, MH3

Explanation: High-risk children can be proactively identified and provided protection and preventive family treatment before serious harm occurs through abuse and neglect.

EDUCATION

Last chance/Day Care Treatment Center for at-risk youth

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Develop a one page working paper of LC/DC Center.

☐ Seek funding from various sources (i.e., grants, at-risk funds).

☐ Develop an Advisory Board to oversee LC/DC Center.

Mandatory Parent Education Program for at-risk youth

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Develop a one-page working paper/curriculum got Mandatory Parent Education Program (use DWI education as model).

☐ Seek funding wherever available.

☐ Develop Advisory Board to oversee parent education Center.

Measures

Baseline: As many as 15 to 25 youth are expelled from the school setting each year in Colbert County.

Goal: To have all students in a school setting each year unless incarcerated.

Baseline: Parents appear to be at a loss of what to do with young people who rebel and become at-risk. Many students lack social and academic skills to be successful.

Goal: To give parents helpful options in parenting at-risk students.
To have students who attended LC/DC Center to receive the skills they need to become successful in normal school setting.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

Baseline: Increase funding for LC/DC treatment; YD1, YD3, YD11, AD1.

Explanation: Funds are hard to find and are costly.

Goal: Increase funding for parent education law that mandate parent participation; CD2, FD3, FD12, AD1, AD5, AD9; FD5, FD6.

Explanation: Funds are hard to find and are costly. This will help make parents more accountable.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Colbert County families need a Family Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps

Baseline: Poll service agencies, business leaders, city leaders and organizations for participation/collaboration in building a Family Resource Center in the Shoals.

Goal: Visit other center and locate facility donation funds.

Goal: Partner with Lauderdale County on grants and explore working toward a Shoals Family Resource Center.

Goal: Explore possibilities to partner with Colbert County Youth Center and share their building space.

Colbert County families need reliable transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

Baseline: Assess the need for route development to remote areas.

Goal: Secure funding for a pilot transportation project.

Goal: Secure funding for mobile units and staff.

Goal: Design and implement transportation services to provider locations.

Colbert County families need financial planning to achieve individual economic security

Policy Council Action Steps

Goal: Explore how best to educate families in household budgeting.

Colbert County

Baseline: Explore with County Extension Services the possibilities of administering a countywide program.

Goal: Partner with educators and other service providers to design a comprehensive program for low-income family budgeting.

Goal: Seek funding and curriculum for family education and training.

Goal: Explore how faith based programs can volunteer support and assistance to families served.

Measures

Baseline: Alabama Kids count shows 2,376 Colbert County Children live in poverty; this is 18.4% of this child population. Colbert County Food Stamp program's April 2003 reports indicate approximately 3,000 children depend upon monthly food stamp benefits.

Goal: A Family Resource Center will provide opportunities for education, job readiness and financial resources to help families reach economic security. Provision of multiple services at one location will facilitate easier access and prevent service duplication, thus reduce the number of vulnerable children and families.

Baseline: Families indicate transportation is needed to access services offered at a Family Service Center and other service locations such as physicians, pharmacies and food markets.

Goal: Increase accessibility to family services by 30% to minimally cover the Colbert County children living in poverty.

Baseline: Families report they need assistance meeting individual needs beyond housing, food and utilities; education/training, emotional and social developmental needs are often unmet.

Goal: Offer equitable education and training for families on basic skills of earning, saving and budgeting toward economic security.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

Baseline: Fund family resource centers to equitably serve families in all communities with needs assessments and case management services; FD1, FD3, FD4, FD5, FD6, FD12.

Explanation: Vulnerable families need assistance to assess individual needs and access services that will meet those needs.

Goal: Fund and mandate equitable transportation programs in various communities to make family services accessible to all; OS1.

Explanation: Families need transportation assistance to access the services offered to meet individual needs.

Goal: Fund materials and programs to educate and train families in skills to build economic independence; FD6, ED6, OS5.

Explanation: Economic security can be achieved by one individual, one family unit and/or one entire community through education, training and appropriate services.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Colbert County children from birth to age three need Early Intervention referrals and services appropriate to meet individual needs

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Partner with Early Intervention (contact person: Patrick Kelly 1-800-283-9352) at district office to research and explore the following:

- a. Identify all appropriate service providers in the Shoals region.
- b. Identify numbers of children currently being served and how they were referred.
- c. Compare numbers of Colbert referrals and service recipients with comparable counties.
- d. Explore with Colbert County's four Boards of Education, statistics of children in special education programs who should have received Early Intervention services.
- e. Conduct an Awareness Campaign to educate providers and parents of professional and personal responsibilities to identify and refer children need Early Intervention services.
- f. Raise awareness of the various medical, developmental, educational and social services available for children.

☐ Partner with County government and providers to recommend policy/practice and tracking change to assure all children birth through age three in Colbert County are screened by medical and agency professionals.

☐ Explore the possibility of conducting free screening clinics in various community settings.

☐ Explore with health care providers how to implement the Kidstuff Screen modeled after North Carolina's Smart Start screen.

Colbert County children age three through five need preschool services

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Coordinate with childcare facilities and local agencies to locate children in need of special services.

a. Work with Head Start to determine if children who applied and were not accepted could qualify for other preschool services.

b. Track numbers of children receiving special services in Kindergarten with those enrolled in Head Start and preschool.

☐ Conduct an awareness campaign to educate providers and parents on professional and personal responsibilities to identify and refer children needing preschool services. Raise awareness of the various medical, developmental, education and social services available for Colbert children.

a. Coordinate with SEAC and local agencies to conduct free workshops for parents and service providers.

b. Distribute information to healthcare and childcare providers regarding eligibility and services for preschool children.

Families in Colbert County need access to programs that will contribute toward an enhanced quality of life

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Early Care and Intervention Committee of Colbert County Children's Policy Council will partner with Lauderdale and Franklin counties in planning and implementation of an area Family Resource Center. This resource center will provide services for children and families.

☐ A discharge plan will introduce new parents at Colbert County hospitals to family services available in the Shoals area. This may include information packets and personal contact/home visits by service providers.

☐ Professional assessment of individual medical, educational, emotional and developmental needs and support for families to meet those needs will be made available.

☐ Transportation needs will be met through agency services and community supports.

☐ Quality Pre-K programs will be equally available to all children.

☐ Faith based programs will be encouraged to support community families through volunteerism.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** As of October 1, 2002, only thirty (30) Colbert County children were receiving Early Intervention services.

Goal: Children living in Colbert County birth to age three will be referred for Early Intervention screening and receive appropriate tracking and services. This effort will be to prevent children from entering preschool and school systems unable to perform necessary age/grade appropriate tasks to become productive students and citizens.

□Baseline: Children who attend preschool programs gain skills to succeed in kindergarten and school. All Colbert County children need equal opportunity to Head Start or comparable services.

Goal: Colbert County children will enter first grade with skills and knowledge to achieve age/grade appropriate tasks. This will be an effort to prevent later school failure, thus lowering the dropout rate and related behavior problems that disrupt the learning process and environment for school children.

□Baseline: Families in Colbert County report they are unaware to programs and services available for them.

Goal: Families in Colbert County will be aware of and have access to programs and services to enhance quality of life.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□Mandate that newborn hospital discharge plans include preventive screens/services ongoing tracking through school age as currently occurs with immunizations. Give all children equal opportunity for health/developmental screens and services. Fund and administer community based (mobile unit) screen/referral programs with case managed follow-up treatment; CD1, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD6, PH10

Explanation: Preventive measure will assure professional assessment of individual child health/developmental needs and assistance for parents to determine and seek appropriate services.

□Fund, mandate and administer Head Start or comparable programs for the entire child population; CD1, CD3, CD5, FD3, FD4, FD5, PH8, PH9.

Explanation: Parents need professional assistance to recognize developmental delays and support early intervention to address a child's special needs.

□Fund family resource centers to serve all Alabama communities through assessment and case management services. Build and regulate a transportation system to assure families in remote areas can access appropriate services; FD1, FD3, FD4, FD5, FD6, FD12, OS2, OS5.

Explanation: Families need assistance to assess individual needs and access to services that meet those needs.

Conecuh County

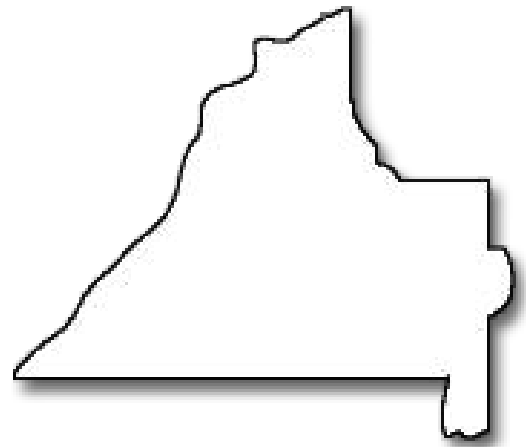
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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Underemployment

☐ Request and establish a part-time state employment office to service Conecuh County residents.

Teen Pregnancy

☐ Provide parenting classes and fatherhood initiative programs.

Children without authority figure in home

☐ Develop Big Brother/Mentor Program and develop a local Boys and Girls Club.

HEALTH

Decrease teen pregnancy rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase nurses and social workers in both public and private schools.
- ☐ Provide social support to teen males and females to include self-esteem, stress, infant responsibilities.

Improve parenting skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Utilize Rainbow Family Resource Center for parenting classes.
- ☐ Establish referral system.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** 14.5%
- Goal:** 11%
- ☐ **Baseline:** 18.4
- Goal:** 14.0

SAFETY

Children without authority figure in home

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop Big Brother/Mentor Program
- ☐ Develop a local Boys/Girls Club

Parent accountability

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Parenting class.
- ☐ Job readiness programs.
- ☐ Substance abuse programs.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Receive approximately eighty CHINS petitions per year.
- Goal:** Reduce by 10%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Rank 59th Kids Count (from 65th).
- Goal:** Reduce to 47th.

EDUCATION

Teen Pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Parenting classes.
- ☐ Responsible fatherhood programs.
- ☐ TIGF - Teens Getting Involved for the Future.

Prepare Students for Graduation and Workforce Development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Decrease drop out (63rd) by providing support services to grades seven through twelve.
- ☐ Continue to increase passage rate on exit exam by providing programs, both remedial and tutorial through Board of Education and Rainbow Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Decrease number of students repeating the first grade.
- ☐ Improve reading skills by providing research-based reading program through school system.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Rank 63rd in Kids Count projected drop out rate.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce ranking to 55th.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Rank 66th in first grade retention rate.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce ranking to 60th.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of Jobs/unemployment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Request part-time employment office services for Conecuh County residents.
- ☐ Expand transportation service to include extended hours, day, etc. May include taxi business.
- ☐ Develop evening childcare services.

Career technical education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop programs to fund utilization of career technical center.
- ☐ Establish process to identify potential drop outs.
- ☐ Provide alternative educational opportunities for at-risk students.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Current transportation is limited and expensive.
- ☐ **Goal:** Provide affordable transportation to include evening and weekend services.

- ☐ **Baseline:** No childcare provider in Conecuh County offers evening services.
- ☐ **Goal:** Develop childcare centers or homes to provide expanded hours.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Drop out rate is 31.9%.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce this by 5%.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Training and motivate parents to start education training

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create literacy center in Conecuh County in conjunction with the Board of Education and Rainbow Resource Center.
- ☐ Continue to make information and programs available to health classes from sixth grade through high school which teaches the importance of basic development and health care of unborn infants up to school age.

Provide home base services for expectant parents in areas of parenting, safety, and education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create programs in parenting services through the Rainbow Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Increase the number of Pre-K sited and Head Start programs in Conecuh County, which will provide parent training.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Rank 66th in Kids Count First Grade retention rate.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce ranking to 60th.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Two of four schools have K-4 programs.
- ☐ **Goal:** All elementary schools to have K-4 programs for all eligible children.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Not all children have access to K-4 programs.
- ☐ **Goal:** All children, four years old attend kindergarten.

Coosa County

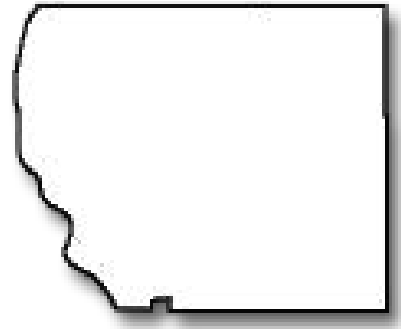
Coosa County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Robert J. Teel, Jr., District Court Judge

Linda Collins
Ann Cunningham
Ellen Dark-Young
Jonathan Davis
Charon Douglass
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Angela Harris
Ziva Hatcher
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Michael Wills
Terry Wilson
Todd Wingard



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase the number of trained workers

- ☐ Increase participation in GED and basic skills classes.
- ☐ Develop Comprehensive Youth Development Program.
Develop Youth Advisory Council.
- ☐ Investigate and Promote Job Fair.
- ☐ Promote scholarships for postsecondary education.
Promote WIA Scholarship.
Promote other scholarships.
Provide information on financial aid to parents.

Projected drop out rate will be lowered

- ☐ Promote pregnancy prevention.
TGIF.
Provide speakers list for middle and high school.

- ☐ Encourage expansion of after school and preschool programs.
- ☐ Increase career awareness.
- ☐ Continue support and promotion of Alternative School.
- ☐ Continue support and promotion of Light Span Program.

Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate & Juvenile violent crime arrest rate

- ☐ Juvenile Probation officer will continue to mandate participation in local programs that provide education and counseling.
- ☐ Juvenile Probation officer and ABC officer will provide training to local and county law enforcement officers (Instruction on detecting underage substance abusers).

HEALTH

Increase the use of prenatal care/ family planning in Coosa County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote SOBRA Medicaid and its usage throughout the county.
- ☐ Promote Plan First and its usage throughout the county.

Increase dental health awareness in Coosa County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Distribute "Smile Alabama" materials throughout the county.

- ☐ Provide dental health education materials to day cares and kindergartens.
- ☐ Provide free dental screenings at the Family Festival spring 2004.

Measures

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count Data Book
Baseline: birth to unmarried teens- 26- 2001 Data Book.
Goal: Reduce it to 21.
Baseline: birth to unmarried teens- 15- 2002 Data Book.
Goal: Reduce it to 12.
- ☐ Alabama Kids Count Data Book.
Baseline: Low birth weight births- 21- 2001 Data Book.
Goal: Reduce it to 15.
Baseline: Low birth weight births-13- 2002 Data Book.
Goal: Reduce to 10.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Family planning; PH3.
- ☐ Dental care; PH2.
- ☐ Information distribution; PH8.

Recommendations: Fully funding of both Medicaid and ALLKids, if the federal government allows the children of legal immigrants to access medical coverage programs without waiting 5 years than the state needs to adopt it and fund it.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Children will have skills necessary to succeed in school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase enrollment in Preschool Programs.
 - a. Investigate classroom space that is more accessible possibly at new school.
- ☐ Investigate adding a Head Start classroom.
- ☐ Increase screening of children in day care & schools for Early Intervention.
- ☐ Distribute information about child care subsidies to Coosa County families.

Caregivers will be trained in quality childcare/development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide parent resource pack for each child in daycare in the county.
- ☐ Increase HIPPY program in the county.
- ☐ We will fully support the work done by the CMA to train caregivers.

Measures

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count Data Book.
 - Baseline:** First Grade retention rate: 5.7% - Data Book 2001.
 - Goal:** Reduce it to 5%
 - Baseline:** First Grade retention rate: 5.4%- Data Book 2002
 - Goal:** Reduce it to 5%
- ☐ Alabama Kids Count Data Book
 - Baseline:** Projected Drop out rate 27.6%- Data Book 2001
 - Goal:** Reduce it to 16%
 - Baseline:** Projected Drop out rate 16.8%-

Data Book 2002
Goal: Reduce to 15%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Early Intervention; CD2.
- 2. Parent Resource packs; CD6.
- 3. HIPPY program; CD7.
HIPPY is an in home program provided by SAFE in Sylacauga to help provide education and information to caregivers of preschool children.
- 4. Family childcare subsidies; CD4.

Recommendations: Fully fund and support the CMA's. Provide more money for providing day care subsidies so that low-income families can afford to work and so that their kids will be left in a safe environment.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Increase the number of trained workers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase participation in GED and basic skills classes.
- ☐ Develop Comprehensive Youth Development Council.
 - a. Develop Youth Advisory Council.
- ☐ Investigate and Promote Job Fair.
- ☐ Promote scholarships for postsecondary education.
 - a. Promote WIA Scholarship.
 - b. Promote other scholarships.
 - c. Provide information on financial aid to parents.

Employment opportunities will increase

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with the county to expand existing industries.
- ☐ Facilitate better communication between Board of Education and Industrial Development Board
 - a. Host Chamber of Commerce meeting

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Present GED enrollment; 2002 enrollment approx. 20-25 countywide; 2003 enrollment approx 40-50 countywide.
Goal: Increase enrollment by 15%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Present number of from Coosa County receiving scholarships to post-secondary schools.
Goal: Increase number by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

1. Adult Education; ED1.
2. Job training/ Career planning; ED7.
3. Job training & placement support; ED9.
4. Job Fair; ED6.

Recommendations- We need to fully fund GED programs. All of the GED programs in Coosa County have been shut down for the month of July. In order for these programs to succeed and grow we must be able to keep them open.

SAFETY

Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate & Juvenile violent crime arrest rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Juvenile Probation officer will continue to mandate participation in local programs that provide education and counseling.
- ☐ Juvenile Probation officer and ABC officer will provide training to local and county law enforcement officers (Instruction on detecting underage substance abusers).

Juvenile substance & violent crime referral rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Juvenile Probation officer will continue to communicate with school officials, parents and law enforcement to refer all instances of substance abuse and violent crime to the Juvenile Court.
- ☐ Juvenile Probation will continue to seek input from arresting officer and parents in regard to case disposition.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count Data Book.

Baseline: Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate 2001 - 4.

Baseline: Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate 2002 - 2.

Goal: Increase the arrest rate for substance abuse and violent crime.

- ☐ Kids Count Date Book.

Baseline: Juvenile substance abuse court referral rate 2001- 16.

Baseline: Juvenile substance abuse court referral rate 2002- 26.

Goal: Increase the referral rate and educate the community to refer incidents to the proper authorities

Note: We would like to see all the youths that participate in substance abuse receive the help that they need. We know that there are more than 26 youths participating in these behaviors in Coosa County. If an increase in referral leads to these youth getting the help they need, then we need to increase the referral/ arrest rate

State Program and Policy Recommendations

1. Information distribution; MH8.
2. Drug abuse prevention& intervention; MH1.
3. Train teachers, enforcement personnel on detecting substance abuse; AD9.

EDUCATION

Projected drop out rate will be lowered

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote pregnancy prevention
 - a. TGIF
 - b. Provide speakers list for middle and high school
- ☐ Encourage expansion of after school and preschool programs
- ☐ Increase career awareness
- ☐ Continue support and promotion of Alternative School
- ☐ Continue support and promotion of Light Span Program

Adult education/ skills/ parent support will increase

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage and support Career/Job skill classes provided by DHR
- ☐ Encourage the expansion of the HIPPY program
- ☐ Promote WIA benefits to all eligible residents

Measures

Baseline: Kathy Midgley director of Alabama Council to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy has spoken to county leaders in spring of 2002.

Goal: Kathy Midgley and Melissa Cox of Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center spoke at Central High school this next year.

New Goal: continue support for these programs.

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count Date Book.

Baseline: Projected Drop out rate 27.6%- Data Book 2001.

Goal: Reduce it to 25%.

Baseline: Projected Drop out rate 16.8%- Data Book 2002.

Goal: Reduce to 15.0%.

☐ **Baseline:** Presently eligible students who have a GED or have already graduated must go to Alex City and then Alabaster to participate in WIA.

Goal: Provide these services in Coosa County.

☐ **Baseline:** Family festival participation in 2002 was 400.

Goal: Increase Family Festival participation to 500.

Baseline: Family festival participation in 2003 was 700.

Goal: Increase Family Festival participation to 1000.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Pregnancy Prevention; FD8.
- ☐ Increase parent involvement; AD3.
- ☐ Expansion of after school programs; AD7.
- ☐ Expansion of Preschool programs; CD3.

Covington County

Covington County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Frank "Trippy" McGuire, District Court Judge

Jim Powell

James T. Willoughby

David Pearce

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Shaon Hobson

Amy Whisonant

Freda B. Barton

Robert L. Barton

Dewey L. Barnes

Pam Rabren

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Cynthia Hataway

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Jason Cain

Sarah Martha Miller

Greg White

Anthony Clark

Eugenie L. Loggins

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Marliyn Herring

David Lynn

Thelma Thomas

Shirley Miller

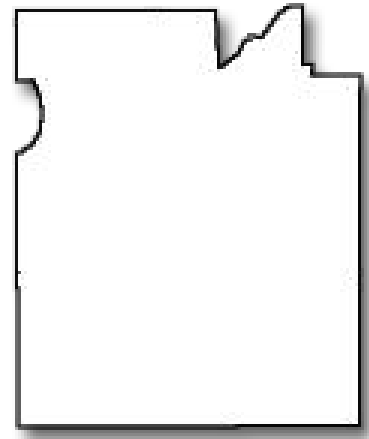
Larry Cummings

Tom Borie

Sammy Hogg

Pat Gables

Letha Stuckey



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Coordination of local and state funding

☐ Improve collaboration among member agencies to maximize funding sources.

Coordinate the Provision of services to children

☐ Create a resource referral center that provides a case management approach to working with vulnerable families.

☐ Collaborate with Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to secure funding for an Even Start Program.

Enhance Parenting Skills

☐ Seek Funding for certification training in parenting programs.

☐ Provide parenting classes through the resource referral center.

HEALTH

Enhanced Health Services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase the number of children covered by insurance.
- ☐ Create a resource center that provides materials and referrals to appropriate programs for parents.

Births to unmarried teens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with the Health Department to provide abstinence education classes to schools.
- ☐ Use "Baby Think It Over" in schools.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Rank twenty-fourth (24th) in Kids Count Child Health Index.

Goal: Reduce ranking to twentieth (20th).

☐ **Baseline:** Rank thirty-fifth (35th) in Kids Count Birth to Unmarried Teens.

☐ **Goal:** Reduce rank to thirtieth (30th).

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Health Services: Insurance enrollment; PH5.

Explanation: Increased funding for the insurance program.

☐ Family Planning; PH3.

SAFETY

Juvenile Crime

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Require parenting classes for those parents and children who appear before the Juvenile Court.

Investigate expanding the role of the truancy officer.

Parent Accountability

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Provide parenting classes.
- ❑ Use a case management approach with families through the resource referral center.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Rank of sixty-seventh (67th) in Kids Count Juvenile Substance Abuse and Court Referral Rate.
Goal: Reduce ranking to sixtieth (60th).
- ❑ **Baseline:** Rank of thirty-eighth (38th) in Kids Count Juvenile Violent Crime Court Referral Rate.
Goal: Reduce ranking to thirtieth (30th).
- ❑ **Baseline:** Rank of thirtieth (30th) in Kids Count Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate.
Goal: Reduce ranking to twenty-fifth (25th).

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Treatment programs for teens; MH1.
Explanation: Fund Treatment Programs.
- ❑ Parenting Education; FD6.
Explanation: Programs and technical assistance.
- ❑ After-School programs; YD1.
Explanation: Additional funding.

EDUCATION

Parenting Skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Secure funding to implement The Parent Project.
- ❑ Create informational brochures about The Parent Project.
- ❑ Create a resource center that provides material and referrals to appropriate programs for parents.

Drug Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Bring Operation Save Teens to Covington County.
- ❑ Identify programs that have been successful in other communities.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** No referral service for family services currently operates in Covington County.
Goal: Operate a family services referral center in Andalusia.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Two agencies offer parenting programs, both limited in scope.
Goal: Offer The Parent Project to families in Covington County.

Covington County

- ❑ **Baseline:** Rank sixty-seventh (67th) in Kids Count Juvenile Substance Abuse Court Referral Rate.
Goal: Reduce ranking to sixtieth (60th).

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Family Resource Centers; FD3.
Explanation: Funding and technical support.
- ❑ Parenting Education; FD6.
Explanation: Funding for certification and implementation.
- ❑ Delinquency prevention; YD3
Explanation: Funding and technical assistance for drug prevention programs.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of employment opportunities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continue work on the Work Force Development Program.
- ❑ Promote adult education.

Improve Childcare Resources

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Work with LBW on the Even Start Program.
- ❑ Work with Alabama Partnership for Children, increase the education of childcare workers.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Rank thirty-eighth (38th) in Kids Count Children in Poverty.
Goal: Reduce rank to thirtieth (30th).
- ❑ **Baseline:** Rank thirty-sixth (36th) in Kids Count Children receiving AFCD/TANF.
Goal: Reduce ranking to thirtieth (30th).
- ❑ **Baseline:** No Even Start program currently operates in Covington County.
Goal: Open an Even Start program.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Childcare resources; ED3.
Explanation: Strengthen regulations for childcare facilities.
- ❑ Adult Education; ED1.
Explanation: Increased advertising.
- ❑ English as a second language; ED5.
Explanation: Increase funding for Even Start programs.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Parenting Skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create a resource center that provides materials and referrals to appropriate programs for parents.
- ☐ Seek funding for certification training in parenting programs.

Improve early childhood literacy ages 0-5

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with LBW on the Even Start Program.
- ☐ Seek funding to expand the KAMPS Program.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** No referral service for family services currently operates in Covington County.
- Goal:** Operate a family service referral center in Andalusia.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Rank thirteenth (13th) in kids Count First Grade Retention Rate.
- Goal:** Reduce ranking to twelfth (12th).
- ☐ **Baseline:** No Even Start program currently operates in Covington County.
- Goal:** Develop an Even Start Program.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Family Resource Centers; FD3.
Explanation: Funding and technical support.
- ☐ Parenting Education; FD6.
Explanation: Funding for certification and implementation.
- ☐ Early Childhood Education; CD3.
Explanation: Funding for Even Start Programs.

Crenshaw County

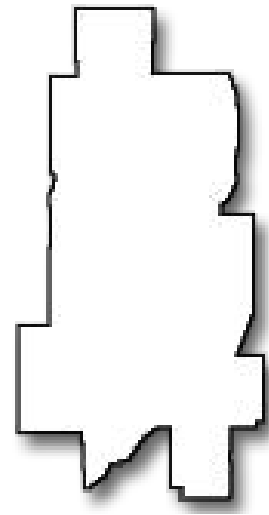
Crenshaw County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. William R. King, District Court Judge

Gina Folmar
Paul Butler
Lynne McCrory
Nancy Robbins
Dewey L. Barnes
Krista Dyess
Janice Carter
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Pam Williams
Shannon Williams
Tom Sport
Cynthia Hattaway
Ronnie Davis
Gloria Rayborn
Ed Beasley
Linsey Gilmore



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Early Care and Education

☐ To create the position of intervention specialist through grant funding.

Safety

☐ To have a law enforcement officer located in each school in the county through cooperative efforts of county

law enforcement agencies, area schools, and public funding.

Health

☐ To provide public transportation to needy families for medical or dental appointments through a cooperative effort of agencies and private resources.

HEALTH

Lack of transportation for under privileged children to go to and from scheduled medical and dental appointments

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We have assisted DHR in providing transportation for their clients.
- ☐ We continue to apply for public and private funding to create a public transportation system to provide these essential services.
- ☐ We continue to work in developing a network of non-profit corporations and area churches to assist in providing transportation for persons in need.
- ☐ Obtain a central location that will provide multiple services, including health and dental services for our citizens.

Need of a central location where multiple services can be offered

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We will hold our second central workshop on Love Thy Neighbor Weekend that provided multiple free services to area citizens.
- ☐ Check with area realtors and business owners to locate a suitable location.
- ☐ We continue to seek any state, federal, or private funding for said location.
- ☐ We have formed 501(c) 3 charitable corporation to assist in funding the various projects of the Children's Policy Council.

Measures

Baseline: Based on Data received from county resources only one half of county households have one car or less. Transportation to and from services is therefore a major problem.. This problem could effect over 6,500 people.

Goal: Attempt to provide transportation resources to at least one fourth of the persons identified in need during the upcoming year.

Baseline: Based on Data received from the State of Alabama and the United States, the population of Crenshaw County is approximately 13,600 residents. The majority of these residents are at or below the poverty level and live in a rural setting.

Goal: Provide a central location in order to provide multiple services during several times during the year and provide free transportation to and from the location during these times. Locate and acquire a building and funding for said central location.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide public transportation; OS2.
- ☐ Coordinate multiple resources at one location; FD3

SAFETY

School safety and drug awareness and prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We have supported the hiring of a school resource officer for Highland Home School and continue to work with city and county governments and the school board to provide a law enforcement officer for each school in the county.
- ☐ Assisted agencies in providing statistics and letters of support for obtaining various grants.
- ☐ Utilized meetings to share information and concerns about security related issues.
- ☐ Provided a cooperative environment for the implementation of drug awareness and prevention programs in schools within the county.

Need for better education of our children concerning child predators, child neglect, and abuse; to provide educational materials and available services to children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We assist local agencies in coordination of educational materials and programs.
- ☐ To provide county resource manuals or information to all county agencies.
- ☐ To identify all areas of particular concern and formulate action plans to address each.

Measures

- Baseline:** There are three public high schools and one private school located in Crenshaw County. Of these, there are two law enforcement officers that work within the schools.
- Goal:** To assist local law enforcement agencies in hiring at least one additional law enforcement officer

to work within the schools. This will provide an opportunity for the officers to not only establish a good relationship with students in a familiar environment, but also to educate them on the issues listed above. This will encourage more feed back from the students.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide on site resources and law enforcement officers at schools; YD3.

EDUCATION

To identify at risk and multiple needs children at early ages, and to provide needed resources and educational programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We continue to work within county agencies to formulate an early intervention plan.
- ☐ To develop educational programs and materials on identifying at risk and multiple needs children.
- ☐ We have supported efforts to secure a grant to fund the position of an intervention specialist who would work with families of at risk and multiple needs children.

Formulate a community wide teen pregnancy prevention plan

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We continue to work with various county agencies to formulate a comprehensive plan to prevent teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- ☐ To locate all available funding and resources in order to implement the plan.

Measures

- Baseline:** There are a number of at risk and multiple needs children in our county.
- Goal:** To identify at risk and multiple needs children at an earlier age.
- Baseline:** Statistics support a high percentage of sexually active teens and teen pregnancies.
- Goal:** To reduce the percentage of sexually active teens and teen pregnancies through education and the promotion of abstinence.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Secure funding for an intervention specialist; CD2.
- ☐ To promote abstinence and reduce teen pregnancies; FD8.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of job training and placement for county teenagers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We continue to work with area businesses and business groups in promoting career education and placement of county teens.
- ☐ Recommend expanding career day at local schools.
- ☐ Assist existing job training and placement services through referrals.

Lack of funding for vocational educational programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We continue to seek various federal, state, and local funding sources to find additional funding.
- ☐ To promote cooperative partnerships between local businesses and schools to provide training in various vocations including new area industry.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Statistics support a high county unemployment rate for teens between the ages of fourteen and eighteen..
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce the unemployment rate for teens between fourteen and eighteen years of age.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Promote job placement and training for teens ages 14-18; ED9.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Lack of parenting education classes for parents

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ We have supported the procuring of a grant to hire an intervention specialist for county schools, who will help to educate parents about basic parenting skills.
- ☐ We have worked toward the hiring of an intervention specialist and desire that there be coordination between the intervention specialist and the county extension office in providing additional parenting training classes.

The need for additional training in the recognition and identification of child abuse and neglect cases

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ To identify any educational training programs available in this area.
- ☐ To assist other agencies in locating and promoting county educational classes, training, and materials on the subject.

The need for a K-4 program in all our area schools

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Through a cooperative effort and new source funding the Crenshaw County School system has started a K-4 program in our area schools.
- ☐ The council will continue to assist the school system in the expansion of this program.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** There is currently no such position as an intervention specialist for county schools.
- ☐ **Goal:** To assist in the creation of this position.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Parenting classes in the past have been provided through the county extension office.
- ☐ **Goal:** Through the intervention specialist, parenting classes would be provided on a regular basis.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

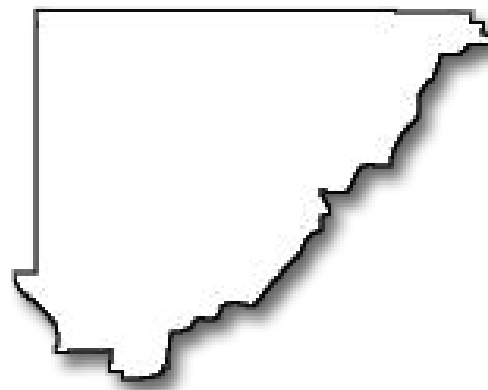
- ☐ To establish this needed service; FD6.

Cullman County

Cullman County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Kim J. Chaney, District Court Judge

Rev. Jack Collins	Susan Martin Hawk	Rep. Neil Morrison
Elaine Cole	Hon. Terri Thomas	Sen. Zeb Little
William Sulzby, Jr.	Sheriff Tyler Roden	Rep. Jeremy Oden
Kay Hilton	Norman Tucker	Jackie Walker
Chief Kenny	Len. Brooks	Robert Matthews
Culpepper	Brenda Howell	Janice Sweatman
Martha Williams	Yebbie Copeland	Irene Hardeman
Alan Arnett	Richard Lewis	Martha Thomas
Nelda Pepper	Dr. Suzanne Freeman	Greg Johnson
Dr. Sylvia Morris	Jan Farley	Robert Palys
Donna Sisulak	Billy Oliver	Acacia Sturdivant
Del McLeroy	Sondra Nassetta	



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Illegal drug use in Cullman County must be addressed. It is so prevalent that drug use is connected with approximately 75% of all criminal cases in the juvenile and adult courts. A combination of education, enforcement and treatment must be used

Establishment of a local Family Resource Center

☐ This will provide at risk families with a central location that will help them with any problems; lack of work, no

food, parenting classes, spouse abuse, education issues, child abuse, etc. More importantly, it will help control and coordinate the delivery of local services to a family.

Our local schools must be adequately funded. Our local policy council has determined this to be priority. Also, early intervention programs must be funded and expanded. Early intervention is the key

☐ Locally we will try to make sure the city and county do their share. However, this must be addressed at the state level.

HEALTH

The use of illegal drugs are affecting the health of the young people in Cullman County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Begin an education program in schools for kids at risk.
- ☐ Find a way to educate parents how to recognize and prevent drug abuse.
- ☐ There must be a treatment component to help kids who are using.

We are every concerned about the lack of health care for at risk children and their families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Educate parents about AllKids Insurance.
- ☐ Work with the faith based community and local medical providers to explore the possibility of a free medical clinic.

Measures

Baseline: Drugs and alcohol are involved in about 75% of the 1200 cases a year that are filed in Cullman Juvenile Court.

Goal: To reduce that rate to only 50% of the cases filed will involve drugs or alcohol.

Baseline: True number undetermined at this time.

Goal: To provide medical care to 25% of those children who do not receive health care.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Have regional drug rehabs/mental health centers with uniform programs so consistent treatment would be accessible.
- ☐ Make more faith based grants available for risk children.

SAFETY

The use of illegal drugs are affecting the safety of the young people in Cullman County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Begin an education program in schools for kids at risk.
- ☐ Find a way to educate parents how to recognize and prevent their own drug abuse.
- ☐ Create a Family Drug Court to work with kids and parents in the court system.

We are very concerned about child sexual abuse and the lack of counseling for the victim and offenders

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Find a way to educate children about abuse prevention.
- ☐ Review policies after disclosures are made. Develop counseling programs for victims and offenders.

Measures

- Baseline:** Look at number of reported abuse neglect cases attributed to drugs, try to estimate those not reported.
- Goal:** To reduce that rate by 25%.
- Baseline:** True number undetermined at this time. Sexual offenses are not accurately reported.
- Goal:** To provide counseling to all victims and offenders identified.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Have regional sexual offender DHR/DYS/Mental Health centers programs. Risk assessments should be required.
- ☐ Mandatory drug treatment of parents and juveniles who use drugs. More facilities will be needed.

EDUCATION

Cullman County schools do not have enough funding from the state or locally

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Begin an education program about Gov. Riley's tax plan.
- ☐ Ask City Council and County Commission to raise sales tax for schools.
- ☐ Ask school boards to educate public about funding shortfalls.

We are very concerned about the drop out rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Find a way to better use alternative schools to keep kids from dropping out.
- ☐ Look at a vocational component to compliment the regular curriculum.
- ☐ Look at special at risk kids, i.e. pregnant teens, dependent, delinquent. Find a way to keep them in school.

Measures

- Baseline:** Look at the amount of funding currently utilized.
- Goal:** To adequately fund our schools.
- Baseline:** Look at number of drop outs the last few years.
- Goal:** To reduce that rate by 50%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ We need to adequately fund schools at the state level.
- ☐ Be more flexible in with at risk moneys. Every system needs a vocation component to assist those not academically inclined in learning a trade and/or finding meaningful employment. This may mean a new or alternative curriculum design.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Many at risk families do not know how to properly parent a child. Some do not know child's medical and education needs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Look at starting Family Resource Center.
- ❑ Local resources guide to answer FAQs.
- ❑ Families need access to a independent social worker to help them find information/help needed.

Early school programs for at risk families need to be maintained and expanded

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Find a way to expand early school programs.
- ❑ This would help identify at risk families and help coordinate the delivery of services to them.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Look at how many at risk families need parenting classes, food bank services, etc.
- ❑ **Goal:** To see if a central location would benefit at risk families.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Look at how many children are now served by early intervention school programs.
- ❑ **Goal:** To increase that rat by 10-15%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Additional funding for local family resource center. Possibly faith based partnerships could be formed.
- ❑ Legislature requiring early intervention programs be funded. All studies have indicated early intervention is the key to helping at risk kids and families.

Dale County

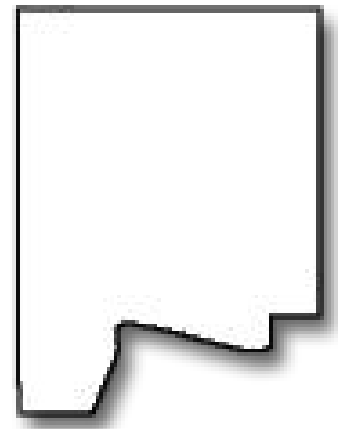
Dale County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Fred R. Steagall, District Court Judge

Sylvia Dodgen
Sandra Flowers
Roberta Blackwell
Deborah Riggs
Charles Ward
Jackie Farmer
Donnie Bynum
Ruth Murphy
Russell Killingsworth
David Emery
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Tim Byrd

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Sue Rice
Tony Spivey
Angelia Enfinger
Tim Freeman
Frank Carroll
Sammy Judah
Danny Tarter
Florine Colvin



HEALTH

Infant Mortality Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide teens with knowledge of prenatal services within Dale County.
- ☐ Assist teens with appropriate referrals in obtaining early and adequate prenatal care, i.e.(substance abuse).
- ☐ Provide transportation when deemed medically necessary.
- ☐ Coordinate community resources, i.e. WIC, Medicaid, etc.

Decrease number of births to unmarried teens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop parent-mentoring programs.
- ☐ Formation of /partnerships with schools, clergy, service providers to support at risk youth and promote teen pregnancy prevention efforts.
- ☐ Identify how communities can work together to address unwed and unintended pregnancy.
- ☐ Referrals to teen case managers for education and counseling and appropriate referrals regarding birth control measures.
- ☐ Support groups formed to provide support and information related to tn pregnancy i.e. parenting, education and job skills.

Measures

- Baseline:** 2 - Alabama Health Statistics 2001; 2002 not available.
Goal: 0

Baseline: 12.8% Alabama Health Statistics 2001; 2002 not available

Goal: Reduce teen pregnancy rate 9%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Seek Nurse-Family Partnership Grants.
 - ☐ Increase funding of PH programs for teen pregnancy.
- Explanation: In order to adequately address the infant mortality rate and teen births that exist in Dale County, we must seek and fund programs that reach the high risk populations.*

SAFETY

Juvenile Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continue education and awareness programs, such as Tar Wars and Save Teens.
- ☐ Develop and continue community service programs that coordinate collaboration among agencies and organizations, such as church sponsored tutoring programs for court referred youths, the Mentoring Program, YES Program, and Parent Project.
- ☐ Analyze court documents to determine which substances are causing the high juvenile substance abuse rate.

Child Endangerment from Use & Manufacture of Illegal Drugs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ County-wide campaign to promote a cooperative and collaborative effort among businesses, particularly store

operators, to notify law enforcement when items used in production of illegal drugs, such as crystal methamphetamine, are purchased in mass quantities.

☐ Work with Drug Task Force to develop new legislation to mandate reporting by business operators of sales of illegal drug ingredients.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Rated in top six counties in State for juvenile substance abuse.

☐ **Goal:** To be rated in lower half of counties in the State for juvenile substance abuse.

EDUCATION

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ "Operation Save Teens" in Schools - provide rewards and incentives for parent participation - build on last years community presentation and take the program into the schools.

☐ High School Tobacco Prevention Programs - possibly organize "Kick Butt Day" through national organization.

☐ Anger management and conflict resolution training in schools - possibly "Second Step" through Spectracare.

☐ Research media literacy programs to educate youth in critical thinking skills to evaluate media messages. - Access local media stars to speak on advertising.

Decrease Absences in School

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ PSA's for radio using youth as announcers - using youth on probation and in Youth Enrichment Program as announcers to assist in education of at risk population.

☐ Booths at ball games to education parents and youth on attendance requirements and assistance available to promote increased attendance.

Measures

☐ Kids Count Data Books.

☐ Local School Records on Attendance.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Increase Business Involvement in Youth Programs

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Family Friendly Business Award - partner with Chamber of Commerce and submit local award recipients to state for state awards. (www.kids.state.al.us).

☐ Contact Civic Clubs for individual and group participation in Children's Policy Council.

☐ Seek increased involvement from local Housing Authority.

Promote Child Support Payments

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Seek community volunteers to work with DHR and Youth Services to assist parents in completion of workbooks that are soon to be provided by Administrative Office of Courts.

☐ Supervised Visitation. Research ways we might provide safe supervised visitation in the community on nights and weekends.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Attention for 0 to 5 children to prepare them for school

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Partner with RSVP to develop a volunteer program in day care centers similar to the reading program in elementary schools.

☐ Explore how we can assist with Foster Grandparents Program.

Improve Quality Standards

Dallas County

Dallas County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Nathaniel Walker, District Court Judge

James E. Ware
Fred Gray
Wayne K. May
James A. Carter
Ed Greene
Sen. Hank Sanders
Rep Edward Maull
Rep. James Thomas
Harris Huffman, Jr.
Ashvin Parikh
Hon. Johnny Jones
Chief Ernest Tate

Janice Tibbets
Patricia Martin
Tina Price
Barbara Brown
Rev. Carl Rawls
Dr. David Hodo
Mary Holloway
Frank Hardy
Rev. Frederick Reese
Rev. Gary Crum
Alvin Owens
Charlotte Griffeth

Rev. Curtis Williams
Connel Towns
Rev. Ralph Edwards
Eli Welch III
James Parker
Grady Broadnax
Larry Justice
Dr. James Mitchell
Rev. Ocie Acoff
Letha Stuckey



HEALTH

Teenage Pregnancies

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Community/Neighborhood Festivals (Presentations from: Public Health, DHR, etc. Disseminate information on: ALL Kids, WIC Program, Alabama Childcare Initiative, etc.).
- ☐ Fatherhood Initiative.
- ☐ Lock Down Program addressing female youth issues.
- ☐ Utilize resources of the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy in establishing a Dallas County campaign to prevent teenage pregnancy.

Uninsured children/youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Community/Neighborhood Festivals (Presentations from: Public Health, DHR, etc. Disseminate information on: ALL Kids, Alabama Childcare Initiative, etc.).
- ☐ Dallas County Children's Policy Council Newsletter. The newsletter will contain information about insurance for children and youth, resources, parenting education, and area support programs. The newsletter will be distributed through the school system and to new parent(s) through the hospital.

Measures

☐ **Baseline/Goal**

Reduce Teen Pregnancy rate by 2%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Information Distribution (Resource Directory & local newsletters); CD6.
- ☐ Teenage Pregnancy Prevention; FD9,FD8.
- ☐ Community Education/Awareness Campaigns via local newsletters; OS4.
- ☐ Transportation; OS1.
- ☐ Service Directory & local newsletter; YD4.
- ☐ Parent Involvement (Lock Down Program, Community/Neighborhood Festivals); YD7.
- ☐ Recreation through Community/Neighborhood Festivals; FD10.
- ☐ Support Family Development Funding; FD12.
- ☐ Community Data Collections and Resource Bank; OS5.

SAFETY

Increase in Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Changing public perception of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. National trends indicate youth are abusing substances as early as age 10. Dallas County plans on decreasing this number by implementing a peer on campaign through ACATA (Alliance Counteracting Alcohol and Tobacco Advertising Targeting Youth), the School Systems, educational programs through Cahaba Mental Health, the Selma Youth Development Center, and visible public awareness campaigns. (The Community/Neighborhood Festival and the Newsletter will also be utilized.)

Increase in Juvenile Female Offenders, Latch Key Kids,

Gang Activity, School Violence, Access to Weapons

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Safe Haven for girls. (Lock Down 2002).
- ❑ After School Programs & Summer Enrichment Programs (*See Youth Education, Empowerment and Economic Plan).
- ❑ Seek funding for JPO/Resource Officers in schools.
- ❑ Assist Chief of Police Green in 'GREAT Program' Development (Gang, Resistance, Education, and Training).
- ❑ Assist Dr. Mitchell and Wallace Community College in the Rural Housing Rehabilitation Program Development (filling 12 slots).
- ❑ "CANDO" at the behest of the Dallas County Children's Policy Council will approach the Dallas County Commissioners and the City of Selma in reference to establishing a Community Data Collections and Resource Bank. There is a four fold purpose for establishing the bank: 1) provide local information to agencies on indicators of Health, Education, Safety, Security, and Early Child Care/Education. 2) to improve the reporting of information being distributed to Voices. For example: As of now, the number of juvenile violent crime arrest rate and juvenile violent crime court referral rate reported by the Dallas County.

Measures

❑ **Baseline:** Ref: Substance Abuse-Kids Count data shows for Dallas County an increase of 248% over a ten year span of youth involved in substance abuse. Kids Count will be used as a tool to measure the success of the campaign.

Goal: Decrease in usage among youth by 50%.

❑ **Baseline:** Ref: Juvenile offenses and referrals - Kids Count data shows Dallas County with increases in both areas over the last ten years.

Goal: Establish a local Community Data Collections and Resource Bank for measuring juvenile offenses and referrals for the last ten years. Through services being implemented watch trends for improvement. Compare data.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Early Intervention -CD2.
- ❑ Information Distribution (Resource Directory & local newsletters) -CD6.
- ❑ After School Programs for life skills development-YD1.
- ❑ Leadership Development - YD5.
- ❑ Mentoring: peer to peer - YD6.
- ❑ Sports/recreation: softball league, field trip, etc. - YD9.
- ❑ Summer Programs/camps for life skills development/recreation - YD10.

- ❑ Summer program/camp for academic enhancement - AD5.
- ❑ Community Education/Awareness Campaigns via local newsletters - OS4.
- ❑ Service Directory & local newsletter - YD4.
- ❑ Parent Involvement (Lock Down Program, Community/Neighborhood Festivals) - YD7.
- ❑ Community Data Collections and Resource Bank - OS5.

EDUCATION

Truancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Proposal to Juvenile Judge from CPC members referencing court ordered parenting classes through DHR.
- ❑ Parent responsibility/accountability: Member of the Dallas County CPC will be addressing a letter to the Juvenile Judge supporting arrests of parents who are not making sure their children are in school. The public will be made aware of the letter via press releases, announcements at public meeting such as the county commissioners meetings and city council meetings.
- ❑ Truancy Prevention/Intervention by researching students failing third and fourth grades in the school systems.
- ❑ Identify alternatives and assist GCWCC (George Corley Wallace Community College) and CITY Program.
- ❑ Review, Revise, Revigorate Warning Prevention Program
- ❑ Search for funds for school based JPO and Resource Officers.
- ❑ Currently seeking Title V funding for truancy and female offenders.

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

❑ Transportation remains a major issue in Dallas County. Children enrolled in the City School System do not have public transportation to and from school; whereas, children enrolled in the County School System do have public transportation. Our Policy Council feels that safety, health, education and economic security will be greatly improved if the county had some type of transportation system for children and their families.

Improved Math and Reading Scores for 9th, 10th, 11th Graders

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continued support and student recognition in grades K-8.

- ❑Through Dr. Mitchell and GCWCC look at the Fast Track Reading Program for students in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades.
- ❑Investigate Professor B - Math Program
- ❑Offer Tutorial Programs, After School and Summer Enrichment Programs (using the same curriculums)
- ❑Make it interesting and challenging by offering an incentive such as the Youth Education, Empowerment and Economic Plan

Measures

Baseline: County and City School System Reports
Goal: Decrease the number of students who are delinquent by 20%. Increase students math and reading levels in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑Truancy prevention/intervention: attendance follow-up, absentee monitoring, etc. - AD6.
- ❑Information distribution: newsletter, resource directory, etc. - AD1.
- ❑Parent involvement/participation - AD3.
- ❑Student support/assistance - AD4.
- ❑Tutoring/academic counseling: after school, summer, etc. - AD7.
- ❑Job training/career planning - ED7.
- ❑Peer support/counseling - MH7.
- ❑Community Data Collections and Resource Bank -OS5.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Youth Employment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Ask the County to reserve 10 slots (for adjudicated youth) in the Summer Youth Work Program.
- ❑Ask the City to reserve 10 slots (for adjudicated youth) in the Summer Youth Work Program.
- ❑Get businesses involved
- ❑ECEZ (Economic Community Empowerment Zone) County/City Officers
- ❑Approach Black Businesses/Charities
- ❑Business Mentors (ask business owners to mentor and hire at least one youth, must register with "CANDO" under the Alabama Mentoring Initiative)

Economic Plan for youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Review proposed attached plan for the Youth Education, Empowerment and Economic Plan.

- ❑SUSTAINABILITY PLAN - If there is a down turn in the economy, Issue 2 will be greatly affected, therefore a plan to ensure that the proposed Youth Education, Empowerment and Economic Plan will continue should it be in place.

Measures

Baseline: County presently not participating in a Youth Employment Program City of Selma reported that in 2001 there were 75 available positions and 500 applications received; in 2002 there were 113 available positions and 487 applications received.
Goal: Increase available positions for Youth Employment.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑Youth Facilitator to oversee Youth Development, Summer Job Program, etc. - YD11.
- ❑Information Distribution through newsletter/Community/Neighborhood Festivals
- ❑Job training/career planning - ED7.
- ❑Job training and placement/support - ED9.
- ❑Support legislation for increase funding towards the Youth Education, Empowerment, and Economic Plan - ED11.
- ❑Micro enterprise/entrepreneurship - ED10.
- ❑Business Mentor - ED8.
- ❑Transportation Service for the County - OS2.
- ❑Community Data Collections and Resource Bank - OS5.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Lack of programs to meet various needs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Letters of support for Head Start Program to expand..
- ❑Publicize George Wallace Community College's two year degree program in Early Child Care.
- ❑Publicize and encourage (Child Care Workers) participation in Career Link and the Satellite Child Care offered by West Alabama Community Services

Lack of availability of quality child care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Resource Directory to identify Child Care Services (must be approved by DHR standards).

- ☐Contact VICAP (Volunteers in Child Abuse Prevention) for a listing of Childcare services.
- ☐Contact Cahaba Mental Health for a listing of Childcare services and access to Early Intervention-Development Delay Program.

Measures

Baseline: Dallas County Community Action Agency and Head Start has an enrollment of 380 children with no availability. There are 120 children on the waiting list.

Goal: Expansion of Head Start so that there are no more than 10 children on the waiting list.

☐**Baseline:** Department of Human Resources contracts with Community Service Programs of West Alabama Childcare Management Agency - Contact Christi Bridges 1-800-699-5655. Number of Child Care Services registered with DHR are as follows: 10 registered licensed centers; 32 registered homes.

Goal: Increase number of quality Child Care Services for parent(s) who are employed and for parent(s) who are unemployed.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

- ☐Case Management - CD1.
- ☐Early Intervention - CD2.
- ☐Family Childcare, slot expansion - CD4.
- ☐Center based Childcare, slot expansion - CD4.
- ☐Information Distribution through newsletter, Community/Neighborhood Festivals - CD6.
- ☐Community Data Collections and Resource Bank - OS5.

DeKalb County

De Kalb County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Steve Whitmire, District Court Judge

Rudy Benson
Dot Burke
Jim Chambers
Melinda Gardner
Shirley Gorham
Todd Greeson
Sid Holcomb
Larry Hooks

Robert Matthews
Thomas McCormick
Maurice McGee
DeAnna Moore
Mike O'Dell
Rhonda Pettus
Cecil Reed
Bill Rupil

Deborah Seagraves
Edward Stuckey
Donna Taheri
David Walker
Charles Warren
Liz Wheatley
Sandy White
Jimmy Wilbanks



HEALTH

To decrease the infant mortality in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Enhance the effectiveness of prenatal care and education concerning infant mortality prevention, utilizing school-based referrals and community programs.

To reduce the problem of low weight births in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Continue to develop hospital outreach to educate at-risk individuals and families.

To improve DeKalb County's Child health index in all aspects

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Continue school-based classes on smoking and general health issues for pregnant teens.
☐ Enhance school-based clinic/nurse accessibility for pregnant teens.
☐ Provide assistance for All Kids enrollment for teen mothers.

To reduce the number of births to unmarried teens in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Enhance teen pregnancy prevention education.
☐ Continue to promote stable family environments for child rearing through community outreach education.

Measures

☐ Infant mortality rate, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.
Baseline: 9 deaths per 1000 live births in DeKalb County.

Goal: For DeKalb County to consistently improve the annual infant mortality rate.

☐ Low weight births, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Ranked 23 in the state.

Goal: For DeKalb County to become one of the state's top ten counties in acceptable birth weights.

☐ Child health index, Kids Count 2002 Data Book

Baseline: State rate: 58.7%; DeKalb County rate: 56.3%.

Goal: For DeKalb County to continue annually improving in the child health index and match or exceed the state's child health index.

☐ Births to unmarried teens, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: 8.8% of all live births in DeKalb County.

Goal: For DeKalb County to reverse its trend in births to unmarried teens and achieve a rate of 5% or lower.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Advocate to legislators to support pro-child and family strategies; FD12.

Explanation: Support legislation for change in laws.

☐ Allocate funds to support measures as identified by Children's Policy Council; FD12.

Explanation: Support legislation for increase in funding.

☐ Advocate and support funding for All Kids and other health-related programs; FD12.

Explanation: Support for issue and fund related legislation.

SAFETY

To decrease the child death rate in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Establish new community and school-based education on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome.

To reduce the problem child abuse and neglect in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Enhance community and school-based education on preventing child abuse.
- ☐ Enhance in-home therapy opportunities for at-risk families.
- ☐ Increase parent support groups.

To reduce incidents of juvenile substance abuse in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Enlarge mentoring outreach to DeKalb County Youth.
- ☐ Increase value education programs in the community.
- ☐ Provide greater anti-drug education at the school level.

To curtail juvenile violent crime in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with the District Attorney's office, Children's Advocacy Center, and other community organizations to develop more effective early intervention programs.
- ☐ Research development of a juvenile day program as an alternative measure for juvenile court action.

To reduce the preventable teen death rate in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase alternative programs for after school activities.
- ☐ Continue and expand school-based child abuse prevention programs.

Measures

☐ Child death rate, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: 4 deaths per 1000 children in DeKalb County.

Goal: For DeKalb County to consistently decrease the rate of child deaths.

☐ Children with indication of abuse or neglect, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Ranked 33 in the state.

Goal: For DeKalb County to strengthen families and lower the number of child abuse or neglect cases.

☐ Juvenile substance abuse and juvenile violent crime arrest rates and court referral rates, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Substance abuse arrest rate: 9; substance abuse court referral rate: 71; violent crime arrest rate rank: 7; violent crime court referral rate: 8.

Goal: For DeKalb County to reduce juvenile substance abuse and juvenile violence rates and become one of the state's top ten counties.

☐ Preventable teen death rate, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Ranked 57 in the state.

Goal: For DeKalb County to consistently improve in the area of preventable teen deaths, to equal or exceed the state rank.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Increased funds for service expansion; FD2, FD5.

☐ Statewide conference of Children's Policy Councils; OS5.

Explanation: Establish resource, referral, and counsel.

EDUCATION

To decrease the event dropout rate in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Enhance early intervention efforts in school-based programs.

To improve the projected dropout rate in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Establish new day program initiatives for early intervention.

☐ Provide community instruction opportunities for at-risk families and individuals.

Measures

☐Event dropout rate, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Current rate in DeKalb County: 6.1; state rate: 4.1.

Goal: For DeKalb County to consistently decrease the rate of event dropouts and to improve above and beyond the state rate.

☐Projected dropout rate, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Ranked 55 in the state.

Goal: For DeKalb County to improve youth success in education.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

To decrease the number of families in DeKalb County categorized as vulnerable

To lower the rate of children requiring AFDC/TANF

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Encourage school-based and community information on technical education for employment.

To raise the standard of living for children living in poverty in DeKalb County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Provide information and education on family economic stability.

To assist single-parent families with children toward more stable lifestyles

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Assist in All Kids enrollment.

☐Work with community organizations to provide assistance in educational opportunities, job skills, and parenting to more DeKalb County single-parent families.

Measures

☐Vulnerable families, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Currently ranked at 26 in the state.

Goal: For DeKalb County to reverse the existing trend and improve the rate on families classified as vulnerable.

☐Children receiving AFDC/TANF, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Rate for current year: 1.6; rank in state: 11.

Goal: For DeKalb County to continue to improve its standing for children receiving assistance through AFDC/TANF.

☐Children in poverty, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Number of children classified as living in poverty: 2884, at a rate of 18.6%.

Goal: For DeKalb County to establish effective means of improving the economic security of at-risk families.

☐Single-parent families with children, Kids Count 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Ranked number ten in the state.

Goal: For DeKalb County to consistently remain in the top ten counties in Alabama.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

To provide all DeKalb County children comprehensive early education and quality care

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Enhance opportunities for voluntary pre-K programs.

To ensure that an increasing number of DeKalb County pre-K children are properly equipped for kindergarten and first grade

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Work with area organizations, such as Childcare Resource Network, to augment training for childcare providers.

Measures

☐First grade retention, All Kids 2002 Data Book.

Baseline: Current year rate: 6.6.

Goal: For DeKalb County to develop more effective intervention methods for early education problems among children.

☐Alabama Learning Inventory - State Department of Education.

Baseline: The year's prior relevant data from the Alabama Learning Inventory.

Goal: Seventy-five % of kindergarten will score 50% - 75% correct on all pre-reading and reading subtests of the Alabama Early Learning Inventory.

Elmore County

Elmore County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Mary Elizabeth Culberson, District Court Judge

Don Mayfield
Carol Nelson
Johnathon Davis

Owen Duke

Pat Lyle

Bruce Fulmer

Dr. Jim Jeffers

Delane Goggans

Bobby Bryan

Hon. Randall Houston

Jim Preuitt

Larry Dixon

Gregory W. Wren

Mac Gipson

Jack Venable

WEndell Mitchell

Don Whorton

Bill Franklin

Jaqueline E Austin

Marshall Anderson

Dennis Hill

Clayton Barnes

Gretel Felton

Angela Howard

Robert L. Ritchey, Jr.

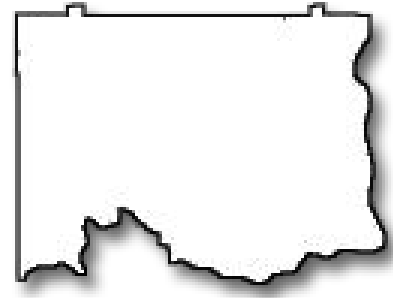
Rev. Arthur Smith

Marilee Tankersley

Sybil Kornman

Lt. Don Strickland

Richard Yon



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The establishment of a Family Resource Center

☐ Contact local legislators to assist in securing funding for the building and maintenance of the center.

Re-open 72-hour Juvenile Detention Facility

☐ Work with County Commission to obtain funding for the Detention Facility.

Promote Job Readiness

☐ Work with local schools and industries to ensure that

students are obtaining the necessary technical job skills for employment.

The establishment of a state wide 24-hour crisis response team to assist local agencies

☐ That the State Departments of Human Resources, Mental Health, Public Health and Youth Services work together to establish a 24-hour crisis response team to assist local agencies. The state could be divided into districts to make this manageable.

HEALTH

Establish a Family Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Research grant opportunities for the operation of a Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Research available locations for a Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Research programs to be implemented at the Family Resource Center.

Increase number of children covered by Health Insurance

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with All-Kids Insurance to provide information to the public about All-Kids by distributing information at

the local schools, places of employment, and Juvenile Court.

- ☐ Work with children in the Juvenile Court System to explore all options for health insurance.
- ☐ Send Referrals for Medicaid Claiming Program to local school administrators for help in preparing the necessary forms.
- ☐ Help persuade the Public Health to provide Medicaid workers additional space at the Health Department in order to conduct interviews and case management.

Reduce rate of teenage pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with Health Department and schools on presenting pregnancy prevention programs to teenagers in the local high schools.
- ☐ Work with area churches on presenting abstinence programs within Elmore County.
- ☐ Develop STEPS Program in the elementary schools.

- ☐ Help institute the Baby Think It Over Program in all junior high schools.
- ☐ Develop Mentoring Programs.

Measures

- ☐ Teen pregnancy rate.
Baseline: 9.5%
Goal: 8.0%
- ☐ Number of children currently receiving All Kids and Medicare Insurance.
Baseline: Must Determine.
Goal: Must Determine.

SAFETY

Re-open a 72-hour Detention Facility in Elmore County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Explore all State and Federal Grant opportunities for the operation of a Detention Facility.
- ☐ Work with the county commission to secure funding to re-open the facility.

Reduce the number of Juvenile Court Referrals for Substance Abuse outside Elmore County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Explore Grant options to establish an in-county intensive outpatient treatment Program.
- ☐ Work with the municipalities to establish after-school, weekend and summer programs for at-risk youth.

Reduce Domestic Violence incidents among Juveniles

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish Parent/Child classes for parents of at-risk teenagers.
- ☐ Promote a campaign in the local schools explaining what domestic violence is and its possible consequences.

Measures

- ☐ Number of Juveniles referred to Juvenile Court for Substance Abuse Charges
- ☐ Number of Juveniles referred to Juvenile Court for Domestic Violence Charges.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Remove juvenile sibling altercations from Domestic Violence definition.
- ☐ Encourage ADECA to fund detention bed space with the Juvenile Accountability Intensive Block Grants and other Federal Money.

EDUCATION

Reduce number of high school Drop-outs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Recruit volunteer tutors to help children at risk of failing a class or a grade.
- ☐ Work with the Department of Children's Affairs to hire a school based social worker/mental health worker to work with children who may drop out of school because of family and/or emotional problems.

Support Technology programs within the schools in order to promote job readiness

Policy County Action Steps

- ☐ Recruit volunteers to tutor students in different technological areas.
- ☐ Help secure funding to continue existing technology programs within the schools.

Reduce the number of children truant 20 or more days and improve on-time attendance

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Explore the option of establishing a Saturday truancy program that parents and child must attend once a child has reached 15 unexcused absences.
- ☐ School Attendance Officers will work with Juvenile Probation Officers to hold Early Warning Truancy meetings for every child that has reached 15 unexcused absences.
- ☐ Increase the use of after school detention programs for students who are habitually tardy.

Increase Funding from County Commission for local funding for schools

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with the County Commission to find new sources of revenue for schools.

Measures

- ☐ Drop-Out Rate.
- ☐ Number of children with 20 or more absences from school.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Budgeting/Financial Training

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with County Extension Agency and local schools to provide public programs on Budgeting and handling finances.

Increase support for Technical training in the Elmore County School System to improve students' abilities to obtain employment after graduation from High School

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Launch a public campaign to encourage employers to hire local graduates with Technical training.
- ☐ Recruit volunteers with Technical skills to assist students.
- ☐ Implement programs to promote job readiness for area students.
- ☐ Assist in implementing a cooperative agreement with the schools and local industries to ensure that high school students are receiving the necessary technical training needed by local employers.

Encourage local industries to increase the number of job openings, and encourage new industries to locate in Elmore County to increase the number of job openings

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assist the County Commission and local Chambers of Commerce to recruit new businesses.

Measures

- ☐ Number of volunteers recruited.

Baseline: 0

Goal: 10

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Increase number of children attending Head Start

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with Head Start to promote its program and enroll eligible children.

Promote educational aspects in local Daycare Facilities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with local daycare facilities to encourage Volunteers to read to children in daycare.
- ☐ Explore avenues to fund educational videos and materials for local daycare facilities.

Pre-K Program

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Help establish the Birth to 2 years old Early Headstart Program.
- ☐ Supply information on the Early Head Start Program to expectant mothers.
- ☐ Help establish more 3-year-old to 5-year-old Headstart Programs

Breakfast Program re-introduced into school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with schools to find available funding for school Breakfast Programs.

Increase number of childcare facilities that will accept children with disabilities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide local Daycare facilities with staff and FRAPE training to instruct them on caring for children with physical and/or mental disabilities.

Escambia County

Escambia County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. David Jordan, District Court Judge

Candace Goodson
Gwen Weed
Shannon Sims
Lynn Smith
Charlie Watterson
Pat Lindsey
Carolyn White
Turner Sims
Hugh Stinson

Buck Powell
Fred Lancaster
Michael Godwin
F. P. "Skippy" White
Vicki Fussell
Kimberly Pettis
Dr. Marsha Raulerson
John Garrard
Robert Hardy

April Sells
Emilie Mims
Ruth Harreel
Georgia Ranee
Riley Elliot
Larry White
Tim Hawsey



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Escambia County will have a Reduction in the First Grade Retention Rate

At-Risk Children

- ☐ Establish uniform research-based criteria for at risk children.
- ☐ Provide funding for a juvenile Court Liaison in every county.
- ☐ Incorporate at-risk staffing into Multi-needs' operational and functional guidelines.

Escambia County will have adequate funding for all of the children's services in the county

- ☐ The state CPC will develop and distribute media materials as well as educational materials about the Governor's tax plan to all county CPC's so a grass roots campaign can begin in each county.

HEALTH

Increase funding for all children's services in the county

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Recommend to the State Children's Council (CPC) that they focus on this as the number one priority from July 1 to the statewide referendum vote and that educational materials be disseminated to the County Child Policy Councils immediately.
- ☐ Escambia CPC to develop a plan to educate the citizens in the county regarding the Governor's tax plan focusing on accountability as well as the overall plan.
- ☐ Develop a media promotional package that will be utilized by all Escambia CPC members to further inform the public of the need to support the governor's tax package.

Infant Mortality Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify and report findings of the causes of death of infants in Escambia County (0-12) months through the established Fetal-Infant Mortality Review Program (FIMR). A major problem identified by the FIMR during the past year includes women's health issues including infections (sexually transmitted diseases, urinary tract infections, smoking & obesity during pregnancy).
- ☐ Include the importance and early prenatal care in Family Education classes in schools and churches. (Provide brochures.)
- ☐ Work to assure all pregnancies are insured.
- ☐ Promote the "Back to Sleep" program countywide.
- ☐ Promote programs to reduce prematurity.
- ☐ Early intervention in infections during pregnancy.
- ☐ Work with school lunch programs to assure a more balanced diet at all age levels.
- ☐ Recommend vitamins, especially folic acid, at puberty.
- ☐ Recommend that school vending machines be stocked with healthy snacks and beverages.

Measures

- ☐ Maintain the current Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and children.

Baseline: 47.5% of the children/youth from birth-19 years are Medicaid eligible.

- Goal:** 47.5% or greater will continue to be Medicaid eligible.
- ☐ Reduce the Number of infant deaths from 12.4/1000 to 10.4/1000 (Kids Count, #infant deaths).
- Baseline:** Medicaid residents account for 55% of deliveries in the county.
- Goal:** Maintain Medicaid eligibility for uninsured women of the county.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ The state CPC will develop and distribute media materials as well as educational materials about the Governor's tax plan to all county CPC's so a grass roots campaign can begin in each county; FD12.
- ☐ The state CPC will work with school lunchrooms to ensure a more balanced, nutritious diet as well as the availability of healthy foods in vending machines on school campuses; PH10.
- ☐ Work to assure all pregnancies are insured; PH 5.

SAFETY

At risk children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish criteria for At-Risk Children through the CPC.
- ☐ Coordination and collaboration between community partners to identify at-risk children.
- ☐ Utilization of a multi-disciplinary/multi-need forum to advocate for appropriate referrals and services to eliminate gaps in service and prevent duplication. Family assessment to be completed on all children and their family prior to court action, i.e., delinquency, dependency and children in need of supervision.
- ☐ Assist and support the development and funding of the Child Advocacy Center for prevention, treatment and education.
- ☐ Establish protocol for determining parental responsibility and consequences for lack of family involvement.

Juvenile Violence and Crime

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify At-Risk Children from community partners.
- ☐ Gather statistical information from Drug Task force, local law enforcement agencies, schools, DHR, other community partners to identify children who are at-risk, i.e., child abuse and/or neglect, substance abuse, family violence, teen pregnancy, STD's, truancy, peer violence (school and community) including threats of violence.

- ☐ Family assessment to be completed on all children and family involved prior to court action including delinquency, dependency, and children in need of supervision.
- ☐ Identify other court interventions and preventions, i.e. CASA or Big Brother/Big Sister, informal adjustments, community service and mentoring programs.

Measures

- ☐ Multi-disciplinary/multi-need referrals to appropriate agency/interventions for at-risk children.
- Baseline:** 0
- Goal:** 12
- ☐ Reduce violence and crime arrests in juvenile population.
- Baseline:** 8 (2002 Kids count Data for Escambia-Juvenile violent crime arrest rate.)
- Goal:** 0

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Establish uniform research-based criteria for at-risk children; MH2.
- Explanation: County needs an agreed upon criteria to solicit county-specific statistics.*
- ☐ Provide funding for a Juvenile Court Liaison position in every county; YD3.
- Explanation: Family Assessments are needed for at-risk children and families.*
- ☐ Incorporate at-risk staffing into Multi-Needs' operational and functional guidelines; YD2.
- Explanation: This is an established multi-disciplinary forum to discuss at-risk children and make agency referrals for interventions.*

EDUCATION

Family Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Reduce at-risk behaviors of students: drop-out, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suspension rate, excessive tardies /absences, irregular attendance.
- ☐ Increase parental involvement.
- Strategies:
1. Secure more funding for extra tutorial programs.
 2. Develop/implement more incentives for school attendance.
 3. Allow Career Tech programs for 9th grade students.
 4. Provide work detail for suspended students/parents.
 5. Enhance Character Education programs stressing positive self-esteem, etc.

6. Strengthen reading programs in early grades/years.
7. Enhance or develop quality mentoring programs.
8. Promote job training programs.
9. Encourage /mandate participation in Parenting Classes.
10. Utilize existing Family Resource Center and Promote satellite services.

School Readiness

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Decrease the number of 1st grade retentions.
 - ☐ Develop ways in which attendance at supplemental/enrichment programs will increase for targeted students.
- Strategies:
1. Maintain extended day programs.
 2. Provide summer enrichment programs.
 3. Encourage students to attend all beneficial programs.
 4. Develop partnerships with community organizations.
 5. Increase coordination between area pre-school teachers and kindergarten teachers.
 6. Promote the sharing of "Books" program.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:**
- Goal:** By increasing total family involvement in our school, students will become motivated to stay in school and refrain from negative behaviors.
- ☐ **Baseline:**
- Goal:** Improve academic success for all students, especially those that can be considered at-risk for academic failure.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Workforce Development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase education level to the state average.
- ☐ Survey of current education/skills needed by employees.
- ☐ Escambia CPC to sponsor/promote a career fair.

Resource Information

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Centralized Coordination of local resources to be made available to the public.

Measures

- Baseline:** 68%
- Goal:** 75%

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Reduction of First Grade Retention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support and increase linkage from home to school.
- ☐ Implement a HIPPOY program (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters).
- ☐ Develop a Kidstuff site in Escambia County.

Provide support to affordable child care centers with emphasis on early education and intervention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Collaborate on training for local child care providers.
- ☐ Incorporate TEACH model (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps).
- ☐ Individual analysis of each family on waiting list.

Measures

- ☐ Lower the first grade retention percentage rate.
- Baseline:** 9.4% (reported for 2002).
- Goal:** 8.8%
- ☐ Provide 12 hours of training for child care providers with 10 hours of emphasis on early education and intervention.

Etowah County

Etowah County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. C. Wayne Owen, District Court Judge

Dianne Ashley
Emma Atkins
Kathryn Barrett
Renea Breland
Deborah Davis
Rick DiLella
Barbara Eiland
Hon. Craig Ford
Janice Fox
Hon. Blaine Galliher
Sgt. Regina Gartman
Danny Golden

Mary Gomillion
Sandra Graham
James Haynes
Sheriff James Hayes
James Hedgspeth
Patrick Henry
Jim Henry
Ronald Higgins
Joanne Hightower
Susan Hood
Jim Jones
Susie Krueger

Sen. Larry Means
Michael Morrison
Tommy Mosley
Karen Owen
Hon. Jack Page
Stan Ray
John Reid
Hon. William Russell
Henry Small
Sgt. George Thorp
Autrey Works



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

SAFETY - Youth will refrain from substance abuse

☐ Increase grants/funding for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse Prevention.

HEALTH - Children in Etowah County will be in healthy and safe families

☐ Increase grants/funding for Parent Education/Skills Development General; Case Management, i.e. School

Social Workers; and Individual Counseling, i.e., Mental Health Workers In-School.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION - Children in Etowah County will have healthy families and the skills necessary to succeed in school

☐ Increase grants/funding for Outreach-Home Visiting, Continuum of Care, Etc. and Early Intervention.

HEALTH

Children in Etowah County will be in healthy families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support new and existing parenting programs.
- ☐ Promote professional and public awareness of children's health insurance.
- ☐ Develop a handout of parenting programs in Etowah County.

Children in Etowah County will be in safe families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote ongoing awareness and reporting of abuse and neglect.
- ☐ Support the expansion of in-home programs for pregnant teens/teenage mothers.

Measures

☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: Rate of vulnerable families - 12.9 %.

Goal: Rate of vulnerable families - 12.0 %.

☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: Rate of children in poverty - 21.6 %.

Goal: Rate of children in poverty - 21.0 %.

☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: Number of children with indications of abuse or neglect - 266.

Goal: Number of children with indications of abuse or neglect - 250.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ School Social Workers; MH6.

Explanation: Increase funding.

☐ Parent Education; FD6.

Explanation: Increase funding.

☐ Summer Programs; AD5.

Explanation: Academic/social enrichment.

SAFETY

Youth in Etowah County will refrain from substance abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Utilize educational and treatment programs in the community.
- ☐ Promote community awareness of needs/programs through YDF.
- ☐ Support positive avenues for youth's involvement with activities. (E.g., Boys & Girls Clubs, CDP 2000, GPD after-schools program)

Children in Etowah County will be safe from abuse and violence

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support the expansion of parenting groups in the community.
- ☐ Encourage CPC members to participate in child abuse awareness.
- ☐ Promote programs to educate children about abuse and safety.

Measures

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.
Baseline: Rate of juvenile substance abuse court referrals - 740.9 %.
Goal: Rate of juvenile substance abuse court referrals - 700.0 %.
- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.
Baseline: Number of children with indications of abuse or neglect - 266.
Goal: Number of children with indications of abuse or neglect - 250.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Substance Abuse Prevention/Intervention; MH1.
Explanation: Increase grants funding.
- ☐ Community Education/Awareness; OS4.
Explanation: CPC participation.
- ☐ Case Information & Referral; FD1.
Explanation: Increase grants funding.

EDUCATION

Children in Etowah County will have in-school access to social workers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support social service access in schools.
- ☐ Promote public awareness of community resources.
- ☐ Encourage the development of service providers' lists for distribution to parents.

Children in Etowah County will have in-school access to nurses

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote awareness of children's health insurance options.
- ☐ Support health activities in school - pregnancy prevention and health screenings.

Measures

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.
Baseline: Rate of vulnerable families - 12.9 %.
Goal: Rate of vulnerable families - 12.0 %.
- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.
Baseline: Rate of children in poverty - 21.6 %.
Goal: Rate of children in poverty - 21.0 %.
- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.
Baseline: Rate of births to unmarried teens - 9.6 %.
Goal: Rate of births to unmarried teens - 9.0 %.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ School Social Workers; YD2.
Explanation: Increase funding.
- ☐ School Nurses; PH6.
Explanation: Increase funding.
- ☐ Mental Health Worker In-School; MH6.
Explanation: Increase funding.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

School-aged youth in Etowah County will graduate or complete GED's

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support students' completion of educational plans in alternative schools/C.I.T.Y.
- ☐ Expand student referrals to Anger Management classes. Initiate a truancy program involving parents.

Children in Etowah County will be financially supported by their families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support the efforts of the Alabama Fatherhood Initiative.
- ☐ Promote the resources of the Career Center with professionals and client families.
- ☐ Expand referrals to job training programs.

Measures

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: Rate of projected dropouts - 20.3%.

Goal: Rate of projected dropouts - 19.0%.

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: Rate of children in poverty - 21.6%.

Goal: Rate of children in poverty - 20.0%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Job Training/Career Planning; ED7.

Explanation: C.I.T.Y.

- ☐ Job Training and Placement/Support; ED9.

Explanation: Youth Development Facilitator.

- ☐ Family Resource Center; FD3.

Explanation: Family Success Center.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Children in Etowah County will have healthy families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Secure funding for in-home visitation program.
- ☐ Hire staff/case manager.
- ☐ Implement program.

All children in Etowah County will have skills necessary to succeed in school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Secure funding for community awareness of developmental milestones.
- ☐ Coordinate training of caregivers in developmental delays.
- ☐ Offer parenting classes to all parents of children birth to 5 years.

Measures

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: Rate of children with indications of abuse or neglect - 10.8%.

Goal: Rate of children with indication of abuse or neglect - 8.0%.

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: 1st Grade Retention rate - 7.3%.

Goal: 1st Grade Retention rate - 5.0%.

- ☐ Alabama Kids Count.

Baseline: Infant Mortality Rate - 8.0%.

Goal: Infant Mortality Rate - 6.0%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Home Visitation Program; FD5.

- ☐ Early Intervention; CD2.

- ☐ Parenting Education Skills; FD6.

Fayette County

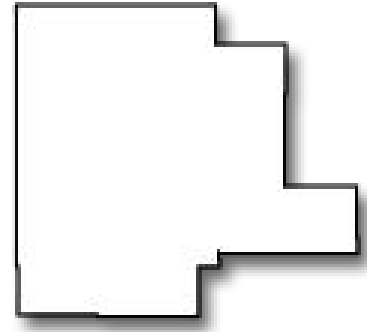
Fayette County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Jerry L. Clay, District Court Judge

Ted Copland
Stewart Roberts
Robert Matthews
Dr. Isaac Espy, Jr.
Carol Albritton
Rhonda Dunavant
Carmen Poe
Mattie J. Jackson

Martha Mitchell
Jerry Clary
Donny R. Winters
William E. Thigpen
Chris McCool
Sherry Grey
Brent McCaleb
Bobby Hathcock

Richard White
Janelle Counce
Rosalind Peoples
Danny Dean
Roger Beford
Jimmy Madison
Nancy Maddox
Deborah Long



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Education of the public on services available and services needed and parenting/life skills

☐ Funding of the Parent Project and Family Resource Center.

Increase job opportunities and recreational facilities in Fayette County

☐ State and local government to recruit businesses to rural communities and provide funds for recreational facilities.

The reduction of eventual and elimination of student dropouts in Fayette County

☐ Funding of a full-time Truancy Officer for the Fayette County School System

HEALTH

Non-enforcement of tobacco use/sale to Fayette County youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The Fayette County Children's Policy Council will appoint a council that will develop a campaign to make the community aware of laws concerning tobacco use and provide information on facilities that are tobacco free.
- ☐ Coordinate with various law enforcement agencies to step up enforcement of sale to minors and possession by minors of tobacco products.
- ☐ Communicate with the Fayette County Superintendent of Schools the need to enforce policy and rules related to possession/use of tobacco products by the staff and students.

The need of education for signs and symptoms of emotional, sexual, and physical abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Find and provide resources to teachers, daycare workers, and other professionals that deal with children.
- ☐ Collaboration among county agencies to provide seminars and in-services for professionals to educate them on signs and symptoms of emotional, sexual, and physical abuse. Also this will be used to educate the professionals on what steps to take if they feel there are signs of abuse.
- ☐ DHR will provide statistics to local radio, newspapers, and television in order to make people aware that child abuse does exist in Fayette County.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Non-Measurable.
- ☐ **Goal:** The number of tobacco sales and usage among youth will decline.
- ☐ **Baseline:** 2002-52 children (children with indication of abuse and neglect).
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce the number of abused children by at least 5 children per year.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ Enactment of legislation to make all schools tobacco free zones.

Explanation: Self-explanatory.

☐ Funding for education of daycare workers, teachers, and other professionals.

Explanation: Educate professionals on sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.

SAFETY

Education and public awareness of the use of drugs and alcohol

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Children's Policy Council will appoint a Drug Education Counsel that will consist of 6 members of local agencies and 4 members of the community. This counsel will look at programs and prevention methods that have been established in Fayette County and make reports on the effectiveness of these programs. Also, the council will make recommendations to the Children's Policy Council for new and innovative ways to reduce the use of drugs and alcohol in the county.

☐ Community Corrections 24th Judicial Circuit will start a voluntary juvenile drug testing program. This confidential drug testing procedure will allow parents to have their child drug tested and will provide parents with another tool to encourage their children to be drug-free. Brochures will be available to parents and juveniles that will provide information on where to seek help for a drug or alcohol problem.

☐ Research for possible grants to apply for that will secure monies for education, awareness, and prevention of drugs and alcohol.

Prevention and protection from abuse/neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Secure funds to start a volunteer parenting class to teach skills such as punishment vs. abuse.

☐ Place public service announcements in the local newspapers, television, and radio advertising parent programs.

☐ The Children's Policy Council will collaborate with the Fayette County Court System to develop a self-supporting Children of Divorce program. This program will be court ordered for all spouses who have children together.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Non-Measurable.

Goal: Make parents and juveniles aware of the dangers of using drugs and alcohol.

☐ **Baseline:** 2002--52 children (children with indication of abuse and neglect.)

Goal: Reduce number of abused children by at least 5 children per year.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ State funding for parenting classes in all counties.

Explanation: Good parenting projects will teach parents useful skills in order to raise children to become successful and productive citizens.

EDUCATION

Prevention of student dropouts in Fayette County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Decrease student absenteeism by pursuing funding for a full-time truancy officer in the Fayette County School System.

☐ Meet students' personnel needs, and reduce potential problems leading to dropouts by pursuing funding for a mental health worker for the school system.

☐ Eliminate or reduce retention by supporting K-6 summer reading or enrichment programs.

☐ Eliminate or reduce retention by supporting funding for summer enrichment or regular academic programs through Children's First and other local or state agencies.

☐ Provide timely intervention related to student academic progress by encouraging local schools to implement specific timelines and procedures for referrals to Building-Based Student Support Teams.

Measures

Baseline: Event 2001 dropout rate 7.0%.

Goal: Elimination of dropouts in Fayette County. The goal is to have a yearly reduction of at least five students per year.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ Adequate funding of Public Education by the legislature including funding for at least one full time Truancy Officer in each school system and at least one Mental Health Worker for each school system.

Explanation: School attendance is directly tied to school dropout.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Diminishing job opportunities in local markets for students

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Parent/students job fairs for juniors/seniors.
- ☐ Continued skills assessment testing in an effort to direct students towards areas of interest.
- ☐ Work closer with the business community in providing students a better understanding of workforce opportunities upon graduation.
- ☐ Guest lectures relating to interviewing skills and proper interview etiquette.
- ☐ Provide students with statistics regarding the benefits of post-secondary education and the direct correlation of additional education to higher pay.
- ☐ Offer a range of technical classes to students that correlate with local job market needs.
- ☐ Increased parental involvement in post-secondary plans for students.
- ☐ Mentoring programs with students teaming with local business for a "real world" look at life after high school
- ☐ Lectures from local success stories that were educated in the local school system.

Impact of a single parent home on economic well being of children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Offer free financial planning seminars for single-family homes.
- ☐ Make sure all free state and federal aid programs are available and known to head of single-family homes.
- ☐ Provide counseling/tutoring to student's who may live in a single-family home with no guardian available after school due to work schedules.
- ☐ Provide job skills classes to "at risk" students in an after-school learning environment.
- ☐ Make available public transportation to students of single-family homes that have after school jobs.
- ☐ Offer free seminars to single-family homes addressing problem areas that may be encountered by a student with limited supervision.

Measures

- Baseline:** Unemployment rate of 12.2% as reflected in a report date September 2002 that was jointly written by the City, County, and West Alabama Economic Development Authority.
- Goal:** Increase the job opportunities of each student by providing them with a quality education (composed of multiple course options), job development

skills and career guidance.

Baseline: 22.3% of children in poverty as sighted by VOICES for Alabama's Children 2001 Data Book.

Goal: Give each child the opportunity to succeed in life regardless of economic background of home.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Recruitment of industries to rural and poverty stricken areas.

Explanation: Jobs provide economically stability and growth.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The need for parenting skills, prenatal, and childcare classes

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Submit grant application to Children First Trust Fund and other resources to secure funds for establishing a parenting program.
- ☐ The Children's Policy Council will try to secure funds to start a Family Resource Center in Fayette County. Mrs. Mary Jolly has been contacted and has spoken to the Children's Policy Council on the steps and process of starting a Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Local agencies will collaborate together to conduct parenting workshops and seminars on issues dealing with early care and education.

Community awareness of programs and services offered for children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Local agencies will provide information at events (fairs, art shows, etc.) to promote the services and programs that are available to children and parents.
- ☐ Make the community aware of the website: www.kids.state.al.us. This website list services that are available to Fayette County children.
- ☐ Place a weekly public service announcement in the local newspapers television, and radio highlighting a chosen agency of the week and the services the agency provides.
- ☐ Place information pamphlets in hospitals, doctors' offices, and other buildings that are used frequently.

Measures

❑Baseline: Parenting classes are very limited in Fayette County.

Goal: Implement classes that teach parenting, prenatal, and childcare skills.

❑Baseline: No public awareness efforts are available locally to address services offered for children.

Goal: Implement public awareness campaign.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

❑Continue funding for early intervention programs.

Explanation: Help to prevent life-long disabilities and identify disabilities early.

❑Permanent funding for the development and maintenance of a Family Resource Center.

Explanation: This will allow the people of Fayette County to come to one place to get information on services provided by different agencies. This will also make the agencies more successful due to more referrals made by the Family Resource Center.

Franklin County

Franklin County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Paula B. McDowell, District Court Judge

Sylvester Scott
Joey Rushing
Jon Perdue
Robert Matthews
Mickey Ergle
Judy Hitt
Nancy Davis
Shea Madden

Don Cox
Mike Mayfield
Wayne Bolton
Rep. Johnny M.
Morrow
Sen. Roger Bedford
Susan Hargett
Karen Thompson

Diane Pace
Mike Franklin
Bryan W. Libell
Shelia Pierce
Teresa Robertson
Mabeth Nix
Kendra Newton



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Parental Education/Involvement

☐ Policies adopted and funding provided by ordering parental education classes for parents to take responsibility for their child's behavior problem in the schools and community.

Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Truancy Prevention/Intervention among Youth

☐ Provide funding for drug court for teens and truancy officer.
☐ Provide prevention/intervention on drug, alcohol, tobacco, and truancy in the schools and community.

Early Childhood Education/Intervention

☐ Provide funding for Pre- K and early childhood education/intervention programs throughout the county.

HEALTH

Many children lack access to health care: This includes medical, dental, vision and mental health care, as well as substance abuse treatment

Policy Action Council Steps

- ☐ Identify children who need health insurance by working with schools, medical facilities, and other agencies through referrals, surveying, and access to exiting data bases.
- ☐ Identify barriers to obtaining health care.
- ☐ Assist families in the process of applying for medical insurance and other family support services by helping to complete applications.
- ☐ Make ALL KIDS, Medicaid, Child Caring Foundation forms available in language appropriate versions at a variety of public locations.
- ☐ Aggressively pursue legislative action to require that all children have medical insurance coverage.

The need for preventive health care awareness

Policy Action Council Steps

- ☐ Target 3 or more preventable health conditions.
- ☐ Disseminate information about the prevention of these identified health conditions to the public through the media, medical facilities, schools and other support agencies.

Measures

- ☐ Baseline:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Medicaid, local school systems, Alabama Kids Count.
- Goal:** Increase the number of children with health insurance coverage by 5%.
- ☐ Baseline:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Pride Survey, Alabama Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- Goal:** Disseminate prevention information to 50% of Franklin County parents of newborn children and 90% of parents of school age children.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Health services, general: multiple services program, teen clinic, insurance enrollment etc.; PH5.
- ☐ Health services, school based: nurse, clinic, etc.; PH6.
- ☐ Dental Care; PH2.
- ☐ Health screening, general: vision, hearing, etc.; PH4.

- ☐ Wellness/health education: healthy behavior, nutrition, etc.; PH10.
- ☐ Information distribution; PH8.
- ☐ Outreach: mobile clinic, home visiting, etc.; PH9.

SAFETY

High Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Teens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase parenting classes educating on substance abuse and use through schools and community agencies.
- ☐ Seek funding and gain support from schools and community agencies to initiate random drug testing and referral services required for mandatory outpatient services.
- ☐ Start the steps for a Drug Court for teens and investigate Mentor Alabama for potential use with at-risk students.

Sexual Abuse/Abuse and Neglect Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Education in the schools and community agencies will be geared both toward the youth and the professional staff.
- ☐ Increase social work/counseling services for schools and non-traditional settings.
- ☐ Initiate a parenting support groups in schools, hospitals, health department, and other community agencies for pregnant and parenting teens.

Crisis Management for High Risk Youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Pass laws regarding possession of guns on school property and activities as a criminal act.
- ☐ Establish and enforce a uniform attendance policy for all county students.
- ☐ Establish a transition program for children returning to the community after an extended absence from structural programs.
- ☐ Seek funding for a Crisis Team for youth

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Kids Count/Pride Survey/Health Department
- ☐ **Goal:** Increase parental awareness of substance abuse by 10%.

- ☐ **Baseline:** (Health Department, DHR, Kids Count).
- ☐ **Goal:** Increase the education awareness of abuse and neglect prevention to youth and the professional staff and the community by 30%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** (Kids Count).
- ☐ **Goal:** Increase the number of youth receiving support services by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention/intervention; MH1.
- ☐ Mentoring: peer to peer, adult to youth, etc.; YD6.
- ☐ Parent involvement/participation; YD7.
- ☐ Family violence prevention/intervention: sex abuse, neglect, battering, and etc.; FD2.
- ☐ Sex Abuse prevention/intervention; YD2.
- ☐ Pregnancy prevention, general; FD8.
- ☐ Truancy prevention/intervention: attendance follow-up, absentee monitoring, and etc.; AD6.
- ☐ Crisis intervention; MH3.
- ☐ Delinquency prevention/intervention; YD3.
- ☐ Parental involvement/participation; YD7.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Education for job skills for young adults with emphasis on responsibility and accountability

Policy Action Council Steps

- ☐ Assess current curriculum in local job training sites, re: schools, technical schools, career centers, and Adult Education programs.
- ☐ Collaborate with job training and education sites to enhance or implement needed curriculum that will include emphasis on responsibility and accountability for improved work ethics.
- ☐ Seek more consistency in truancy rules by bringing awareness to school instructors and administration of statistics for industry absenteeism and tardiness and other problems identified that hinder production.

Enhance and strengthen the County's existing Family Services Center

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Build on the current network of community service providers to increase information and referral distribution

through a resource directory and community awareness meetings.

☐ Seek funding for operating expenses, advertising/ billboard, job fairs, career day, resource directory, and mentoring programs.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Current statistics of industry and schools absenteeism and tardiness rates.

Goal: Decrease these rates by 5%.

☐ **Baseline:** Current number of collaborating community service providers, and current funding.

Goal: To have a financially sound center that is County's primary resource, referral, and information Center.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Job training/career planning; ED7.

☐ Job training and placement/support: multiple services program; ED9.

☐ Truancy prevention/intervention; AD6.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Children in Franklin County ages birth to five need access to early intervention programs including screening for such programs identifying each child's level of development relating to emotional, social, physical, and cognitive growth

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Identify area referral agencies and service providers

☐ Conduct awareness campaigns relating to early intervention for parents, teachers, and caregivers both in English and Spanish.

☐ Promote participation in early awareness interventions both by parents, teachers, caregivers, and providers.

☐ Seek funding sources if needed to supplement programs in place.

Children in Franklin County need easy access to quality early literacy programs so they will develop needed and

appropriate skills for school readiness resulting in children ready to learn when they begin school

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Provide local centers with information about the importance of quality literacy programs through local training opportunities that exist through the Northwest-Shoals Child Development Program DHR Quality Grant program now serving Franklin County providers.

☐ Educate parents about the importance of quality literacy programs through local parent education programs existing through (Franklin Co. parenting grant).

☐ Franklin County providers will continue to participate in the free book mail-out offered through the Northwest-Shoals Community College DHR Quality Grant which provides quality children's literature to Franklin County family and day care providers.

Measures

Baseline:

Franklin County Childcare Providers:

-14 licensed home care centers

-6 licensed daycare centers

-2 exempt church daycare centers

Franklin County Children's Health Screening Clinics:

-Franklin County Health Department, Dr.

Karen Landers, pediatrician

-Family Practice and Pediatrics Clinic,

Dr. Kevin G. Kelly

-De. Harry W. Kuberg, M.D.

-Dr. Keith Morrow

-Dr. John R. Almirol (Se Habla Espanol)

Goal: The policy council will identify screening agencies and services providers

☐ **Baseline:** (Quarterly workshops, book **, brochures).

Goal: There will be a 50% increase in early intervention awareness activities available in English and Spanish for parents, teachers, and caregivers of children ages birth to five.

☐ **Baseline:** (Number of parents, teachers, and caregivers participating in early awareness intervention).

Goal: There will be a 10% increase in the number of people participating in early awareness activities

☐ **Baseline:** (Amount of funding).

Goal: The amount of funding for early intervention programs will increase by 10%.

☐ **Baseline:** Number of early literacy programs in Franklin County.

Goal: 75% of daycare providers in Franklin County will be given information about the importance of

quality literacy programs by the Northwest Shoals Child Development program including participation in the free book mail-out.

Baseline: Number of educational programs about quality daycare for parents.

Goal: There will be a 50% increase in efforts to educate parents in Franklin County about the importance of quality literacy programs.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Early intervention: identification, assessment, referral, visitation, parental education, etc.; CD2.

☐ Early childhood Education; CD3.

☐ Information distribution: newborn packet, service/resource directory, etc.; CD6.

Geneva County

Geneva County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Charles W. Fleming, Jr., District Court Judge

Zelma Floyd
Gwen Dowling
Berta Blackwell
David Johnson
Linda Clemmons
Kenneth Davis
Bill Burns
Jim Bixby
Ed Harrison

Ken Ball
David Emery
Riley Seibenhener
Harry Adkison
Greg Ward
Lavonne Stromenger
Frankie Lindsey
Rufus Lee
Vikki Moore

David Johnson
Bobby Enfinger
Helen Jones
Bob Crider
Carey Lynn
Cottingham
James Vinning
Wayne Jones



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Drug and Alcohol Abuse/Prevention

Latch-Key Youth

0-5 Year Olds

HEALTH

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek funding for prevention programs including SAVE TEENS and TAR WARS.
- ☐ Educate parents in Geneva County to actively supervise their children using programs such as Parent Project.

Measures

Baseline: The Current Pride survey results show that 6th-11th graders use beer, liquor, marijuana, cocaine, and ecstasy on weekends and any other time when they are not in school more than any other time.

Goal: We hope to reduce the percentage of risky behavior. The results are dependent upon the administration of The Pride Survey by state to determine comparison.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Find funding for professional counselors and educators.

SAFETY

Latch-Key Youth

Geneva County's youth admit in The Pride Survey that they are most likely to conduct risky behavior on week nights/weekends. Our thought from this is that an adult is not supervising them. More programs are needed to provide supervision for youth, in conjunction with, parent education programs that stress the importance of active supervision.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Partner with schools, churches, and community organizations to develop more after-school programs.
- ☐ Seek funding for staffing develop and implement after-school programs.
- ☐ Educate parents in Geneva County to actively supervise their children.

Measures

Baseline: Current Pride survey results show that 6th-11th graders use beer, liquor, marijuana, cocaine, and ecstasy on weekends and any other time when they are not in school more than any other time.

Goal: We hope to reduce the percentage of risky behavior. The results are dependent upon the administration of The Pride Survey by state to determine comparison.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Find funding for after-school programs.

EDUCATION

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

After extensive discussion and considerable evaluation, the Geneva County Children's Policy Council determined that the most significant need for the children of Geneva County is the implementation of substance abuse programs to teach awareness to the youth as well as the community.

The Alabama Survey of Risk and Protective Factors for 2002 demonstrates that our strongest risk factors and our weakest protective factors involve the family. The drug and alcohol problems cannot be decreased without the participation of parents.

The Pride Survey for 2003 shows that our county's youth are most likely to abuse substances on weeknights and weekends. They are most likely to abuse drugs in locations other than school, when the parent is in supervision of the child.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Partner with programs to present public education programs for schools, churches, and community organizations.
- ☐ Coordination among schools, juvenile court, Dept. of Human Resources, Spectra Care, and Geneva County Family Resource Center for referral to parent education programs.
- ☐ Seek funding for prevention programs including SAVE TEENS and TAR WARS.
- ☐ Seek funding for staffing develop and implement prevention programs, especially parent education programs.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Our weakest protective factors are family attachment, family opportunities for pro-social involvement, and family rewards for pro-social involvement.
- ☐ **Goal:** We hope to increase protective factors concerning family.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Fund treatment programs.
- Explanation: In order to adequately address the significant drug and alcohol abuse problems that exist, especially in low socioeconomic rural regions, we must*

fund detoxification and treatment programs that can assist in returning citizens and families to wholeness and healthy lifestyles.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek funding for prevention programs including SAVE TEENS and TAR WARS.
- ☐ Seek funding for staffing to develop and implement after-school programs.
- ☐ Educate parents in Geneva County to actively supervise their children.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** The Current Pride survey results show that 6th-11th graders use beer, liquor, marijuana, cocaine, and ecstasy on weekends and any other time when they are not in school more than any other time.
- ☐ **Goal:** We hope to reduce the percentage of risky behavior. The results are dependent upon the administration of The Pride Survey by state to determine comparison.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Find funding for after-school programs.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

0-5 Year Olds

Policy Council Action Steps

- The Alabama Survey of Risk and Protective data and The Pride Survey, again, show the value of parents, and how the family breakdown in our county continues to put our youth at greatest risk. For 2002, 83 percent of juvenile offenders came for single parent homes.*
- ☐ Implement a program involving the population that deals with 0-5 year olds to find out what Geneva County's needs are in this area.
 - ☐ Establish a strategic plan for CPC on how to make forward advancements, gain funding for necessary programs.
 - ☐ Complete resource mapping for zero to five year olds, including both assets and gaps under the KIDSTUFF Initiative and working with the State APC.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:**

Goal: Accurate resource maps, data regarding assets/gaps, strategic plans.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ Fund programs.

Explanation: Our youth are our county's greatest asset. Once we conduct an assessment of our resources and develop a strategic plan to address the issues facing youth zero - five, we will need funds to implement the recommendation.

Greene County

Greene County Children Policy Council Members

Hon Lillie Jones-Osborne, District Court Judge

Dionne Edison
Curtis Waiters
Eula Morton
Leona Morrow
Gwen Johnson
Diana McCampbell
Mary Armistead
Shirley Brown
Lucius Black
Rev. James Carter
Emma Sugars
Danny Cooper
Joe Webb

Dr. Carol Zippert
Edna Chambers
Patricia Moore
Sgt. Allen Jones
Anita Lewis
Sen. Charles Steele
Raige Mize
Michael Barton
Judy Walters
Anthony Woods
Laura Jockisch
Mark Kearley
Samuel Kimbrough

Jack martin
Hon. Richard Cross
Hon. Chris Chip" Beeker
Geraldine Walton
Rosa Johnson
Ada Anderson
Charlie Williams
Kelvin Cockrell
Hon. Sarah Brown
Johnny Isaac
Katie Jones-Powell
Mayor Raymond Steele
Moses Finch



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Access to Quality Education

☐ Funding for tutorial enrichment programs and nontraditional alternatives school programs.

Teen Pregnancy

☐ Establishment of model Teen Outreach Program to deal with postponing sexual involvement.

Communication and Publicity

☐ Statewide media blitz on resources available in the state. Publish state and local resource guide to be placed at schools, doctor clinics, drug stores, grocery stores, etc.

Funding

☐ Funding for local policy council activities.

HEALTH

Births to Unmarried Teens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Sponsor a resource fair the first week in August to allow county residents access to health and pregnancy prevention information in our county.
- ☐ Lobby state agencies to develop guidelines for addressing teen pregnancy prevention and student achievement.
- ☐ Secure motivational speakers for school and different youth organizations within the county.

Promoting Preventive Health and Dental Care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with state public health and social services officials to facilitate access to high caliber affordable physical and mental health care for children, youth and their families.
- ☐ Establish a resource center.
- ☐ Plan health workshops for all youth and their families.

☐ Involve community leading, merchants, religious leaders and all interested parties in the decision making process of securing quality health and dental care for the county.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count - 2002
Alabama Public Health Center for Health Statistics.
Baseline: 60% of teen mothers ages 15 - 17;
Greene County ranks 67 in state for births to unmarried teens.
Goal: Reduce teen pregnancy by 50%.
- ☐ Kids Count - 2002
Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Health Statistics.
Baseline: 22.1% of teens actual receiving prenatal care; Greene County ranks 67 in reference to the child health index.
Goal: Enhance Health literacy and Health status in all youth Enhance Career skills in all youth.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ PH4
Explanation: Develop and fund expanded access to health education program and health services at local level.

□YD1

Explanation: Fund programs that are based on community service learning, such as mentoring programs and career skill learning programs at the local level.

SAFETY

Children reported abused or Neglected

Policy Council Action Steps

- Greene County Department of Human Resources Agency will develop a training schedule to present workshops within the Greene County system during the upcoming year on child abuse/neglect. Persons to be included are counselors, teachers, para-professions and other staff personnel. Suggested workshops will to be done at all county in-service meetings. Presentations will be 20-30 minutes with a question and answer period.
- DHR will share appropriate forms to be completed with Principals and Counselors at each school, as mandated reporters.
- Designate one worker as SW Liason with school with back-up worker being available to address any safety concerns of any child.
- Will screen all concerns/complaints received from schools to be assessed as preventive assessments or CA/N initial assessments.
- Awareness presentations can also be made through funds available through DHR Multi-Disciplinary Team.
- Distribute literature throughout the community (churches, activity buildings, other public buildings) to raise the awareness of CA/N.

Drugs and Alcohol Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- Neighborhood Watch Program through the City of Eutaw Police Department.
- City of Eutaw to apply for a grant to construct a sports complex (lighted baseball field).
- Seek to establish a substance abuse awareness program within the schools of Greene County through the County Sheriff's Department.

Measures

- Kids Count.

Baseline: Children with indication of abuse or neglect - Greene County ranked 58 in the state.

Goal: Greene The Greene County Department of Human Resources, Greene County Sheriff's Department, and The Eutaw Police Department will partner with other entities to promote safety and well being of all children in Greene County. To decrease the number of "Indicated" child abuse/neglect reports by 20%.

- Kids Count

Baseline: Teens and youth tend to affiliate themselves with criminal activity (ies) due to the lack of knowledge regarding drug abuse and the lack of or access to recreational facilities. Greene County ranked 64 in the state for juvenile violent crimes.

Goal: Develop a plan to organize an after-school and/or Saturday (weekend) recreation program. Reduce the juvenile violent crime rate by 20%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- YD4

Explanation: Information distribution about Neglected and Abused Children

- YD9

Explanation: Organized recreation for youth in the county.

EDUCATION

Access to a quality education for all children

Policy Council Action Steps

- Form a county level educational task force consisting of Chamber of Commerce, PTO, County Commissioners, Mayors, Board of Education Members and the Children's Policy Council.
- Apply for funding to include tutoring and other activities such as Boys and Girls Club.
- Seek resources or funding to reduce the number of students expelled from the school system.

Support system for at-risk students

Policy Council Action Steps

- Seek funding for a full-time Truancy Officer in the school system.
- Apply for funding for an after school detention program.
- Support the implementation of current attendance policy throughout the school system.

Measures

- School Attendance Report..

Baseline: Unavailable for school system.

Goal: Decrease absenteeism by 20%.

- Kids Count

Baseline: Event dropout rate is 6.0%. Greene County is ranked 57 in the State.

Goal: Reduce dropout rate by 20%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□AD7

Explanation: Funding of after-school and homework programs.

□AD6

Explanation: Truancy Officer to monitor attendance and attendance follow-up.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Workforce Development

Policy Council Action Steps

- Partnership with Alabama Industrial Training using the Alabama Works/Fast Track Program via the Enterprise Community to attract more participants to the program.
- Work with Greene County Workforce Development Committee to continue to identify strategies to effectively improve the skill levels of the workforce in Greene County.
- Become more familiar with regional workforce initiative programs and promote these programs to the community.

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

- Help promote the services offered by West Alabama Public Transportation for medical appointments and Job interviews, testing, training and employment.
- Help secure a board member for Kid-One Transportation board of directors that will actively work to help citizens get to medical appointments.
- Promote Enterprise Community transportation assistance that is related to job preparation, interviews, testing and training Sponsor career fairs and community job fairs.

Measures

- The Greene County Industrial Development Board and the Eutaw area chamber of commerce have partnered with the state workforce development agency (AIDT) to better prepare our citizens to be more gainfully employed.

Baseline: Currently approximately 25 citizens have completed Alabama Works-Fast Track program.

Goal: Increase the number of citizens that enter the Alabama Works-Fast Track program and successfully complete the career training program.

- Typically residents in rural communities need transportation to get to jobs and medical appointments.

Baseline: Currently there is a waiting list of over 250 applicants for the Alabama Works-Fast Track program.

Goal: Reduce the waiting list of applicants for the Alabama Works-Fast Track program by 11 applicants per training session.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□OS2

Explanation: Transportation system for rural counties.

□ED8

Explanation: Job placement/job shadowing and mentoring.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Parenting Classes

Policy Council Action Steps

- Establish parenting class through collaboration with other agencies such as the Dept. of Human Resources, West Al. Mental Health and Greene Co. Health Department.
- Create parent support program for building self-esteem in low income families and families with one parent.

Pre-K Programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- Network with Board of Education in providing information concerning the significance of early education programs.
- Establish other programs to meet the need of Pre-K children who are not able to learn at a normal pace.
- Collaborate with agencies that can identify at-risk pre-school children.

Measures

- Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Greene County ranked 62 for vulnerable families.

Goal: Decrease number of vulnerable families living in Greene County by 20%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□CD2

Explanation: Establish a model system for early intervention identification, referral and parent education.

□CD6

Explanation: Provide educational opportunities for parental dysfunction in Greene County families.

Hale County

Hale County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. William A. Ryan, District Court Judge

Rep. Andrew Hayden
Anne S. Bailey
Ashvin Parikh
Barbara Smith
Sen. Charles Steele
Frank Stegall
Becky Fair
Clinton Brasfield
Mike Fuller
Rev. Stephen Moore

Voncille Brown-Johnson
Rep. Gerald Allen
James Kellen, Jr.
Kay Henderson
Kelly Barnes
Larry Johnson
Hon. Leland Avery
Sen. Phil Poole
Rayford Moss
Rita Harless

Sara Brazell
Thomas Brown
Tom Montgomery
Trish Muscolino
Turner Simes
Vangelina Rose
Walter Allen



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Health

☐ All children receive adequate health care.

Safety: lack of supervision

☐ More after-school, nighttime, and weekend care for children.

Early Care

☐ Children are raised in a nurturing environment that prepares them to be able to learn academically.

HEALTH

Improve accessibility of health care for children in Hale County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide information on Medicaid and AllKids to the public/community via flyers, radio announcements, health fairs, AllKids representatives, school PTSA/PTSO, churches.
- ☐ Partner with Hale Co., Delta Health Network for education, transportation and other issues.
- ☐ Partner with agencies to perform an informal transportation feasibility study.

Coordinate and enhance a public health awareness program to increase utilization of available health services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Disseminate materials to the community education stations, community stores, schools, churches, businesses, health fairs.

- ☐ Develop community flyers educating parents of health care needs of their children, immunization schedule, screenings, nutrition, diabetes, education and prevention, etc.
- ☐ Promote awareness of health and social service availability, through inter-agency resource network, local media (newspaper), radio stations.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:**

Goal: Increase participation by local health subcommittee partners. Reestablish a regular meeting of inter-agency council members.

Baseline: June 2001-230, June 2002-262, June 2003--294.

Goal: Increase enrollment in Medicaid and AllKids Insurance by 5%.

☐ **Baseline:**

Goal: Increase WIC caseload by 5% of eligible children ages 0 to 5 years.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Leadership development: Youth advisory Council; YD5.
Explanation: Activities and programs for K-12 regardless of income.

☐Health Services, school based - nurse clinic, etc.; PH6.
Explanation: School nurse to service no more than 900-1200 students.

☐Health screenings general: vision, hearing, etc.; PH4.
Explanation: Mandatory annual health screenings, requiring documentation prior to enrollment for all school age children.

SAFETY

Reduce the availability of drugs and alcohol to children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Develop program to educate children and adults about trends in drug use and warning signs of drug use by children.
- ☐Develop a drug free coalition.
- ☐Pursue plan to develop a juvenile drug court.

Reduce the number of children who are without proper supervision

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Develop more after-school and community programs for youth.
- ☐Develop more comprehensive after-school and summer recreation programs.
- ☐Reactivate the ACATA youth advisory group.

Measures

- ☐**Baseline:** Juvenile Substance abuse court referral rate.
2001 -- 598/100,000
2002 -- 173.7/100,000
- Goal:** Juvenile Substance abuse court referral rate.
2004 -- 86/100,000
- ☐**Baseline:** Juvenile violent crime court referral rate.
2001--726.2/100,000
2002-911.9/100,000
- Goal:** 2003 - 521/100,000
- ☐**Baseline:** Children with indication of abuse or neglect.
2001 4.1/100,000
- Goal:** Children with indication of abuse or neglect.
2003 3/100,000

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention/intervention; MH1.
- ☐After school, evening and weekend programs for life skills development; YD1.
- ☐Parenting education/skills development; FD6.

EDUCATION

At risk youth will have greater opportunity for gainful employment or entrance into post secondary institutions

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Expand services provided through alternative educational settings.
- ☐Provide evening and summer academic opportunities for at-risk youth.
- ☐Provide GED instruction and assessment for at-risk youth.

Increase the number of students who successfully complete high school requirements

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Develop success portfolios for all students and maintain records of aptitude/interests, academics, career, and leadership.
- ☐Implement tutorial and mentoring programs as well as credited summer school offerings.
- ☐Implement career exploration initiatives, intern programs, and job shadowing programs for middle and high school students.

Measures

- ☐**Baseline:** Eleven (11) percent of seniors failed to pass all parts of the AHSGE.
- Goal:** Five (5) percent of seniors will not pass the AHSGE.
- ☐**Baseline:** Dropout rate in Hale County of entering ninth graders is ten (10) percent.
- Goal:** Dropout rate in Hale County of entering ninth graders will be five (5) percent.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Support funding of High Hopes and at-risk programs; AD7.
- ☐Support workforce investment initiatives; ED8.
- ☐Reduce competitive grants and increase formula grants; FD12.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Create an awareness of existing resources in communities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Align partners to participate in community outreach.
- ☐ Target and secure outreach locations in each community.
- ☐ Recruit volunteers for a train-the-trainer model to sustain the community relationship.

Enhance current relationships that provide food, shelter, clothing and housing

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Link with the HERO Thrift Store to do special clothing drives. Ex: Coat drive or swap a garment week. Work with the Thrift Store to involve teens and school clubs in special projects.
- ☐ Work with the HERO Family Services staff to identify children in school setting with uniform/clothing needs.
- ☐ Work with community agencies to do special food drives.
- ☐ Explore resources such as Habitat for Humanity or Auburn Rural Studio for housing and repair needs.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Four partners will be identified to establish community awareness outreach effort and locations will be secured in each community.
- ☐ **Goal:** Two community volunteers will be recruited to sustain the partnership and train at least two high school students for summer volunteer opportunity.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Four agencies will be identified to assist with collecting for special drives. All high school clubs will be notified of group project opportunities. Research and information on options for housing will be distributed through the community awareness outreach effort.
- ☐ **Goal:** Three special drives relating to food, shelter and clothing will be completed. Habitat for Humanity will have a presence in the community.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ More child daycare centers; CD5.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Ensure early screening, assessment, and intervention where necessary

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Distribute Kidstuff Parenting Kits to parents of each Hale County newborn.
- ☐ Create plan and coordinate a campaign to promote early intervention strategies.
- ☐ Sponsor community-wide early intervention campaign to educate general public of the benefits of screening and assessment.

Expand early learning opportunities for all Hale County Children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify all available resources, opportunities and assets available.
- ☐ Support expansion of available daycare slots.
- ☐ Expand number of pre-K classes.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** The number of children getting Early Intervention Services.
- ☐ **Goal:** Increase in the number of children getting Early Intervention Services.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Zero families receive Kidstuff Parenting Kits.
- ☐ **Goal:** 75 percent of families receive Kidstuff Parenting kits.
- ☐ **Baseline:** 3 pre-K classrooms.
- ☐ **Goal:** 25 pre-K classrooms.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Parenting kits distributed to parents of every Hale County newborn; CD6.
- ☐ Bring all partners to the table to promote Early Intervention Services; PH8 .
- ☐ Sponsor an Early Intervention Campaign showing benefits of early screening and assessment; OS4.

Henry County

Henry County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Charles W. Woodham, District Court Judge

Hon. Lamar Turner

Lawton Armstrong

Hon. R. Martin Adams

Russell Killingsworth

Jeff Simmons

Billy G. Davis

William D. Grimsley

Owen Bolan

Berta Blackwell

Jamie Abshire

Joy Crawford

Rep. Locy Baker

Rep. Billy Beasley

Sen. Harri Ann Smith

Faye Shipps

Betty Smith

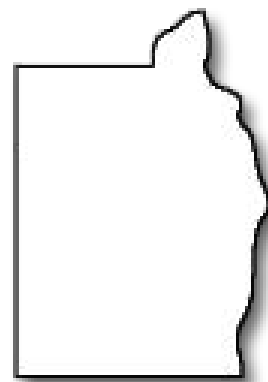
Homer Reeves

Chief Mickey Shelley

A.B. Cotton

Penny Williams

Ricky Allen



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Alcohol and substance abuse will decrease among Henry County children

☐ Assist Boys and Girls Clubs in securing buildings and funds for operation

☐ Use peer groups to mentor juvenile substance abuse users

☐ Encourage court referral to assist in Juvenile AA meetings and classes

☐ Establish a Family Resource Center

Births to unmarried teens will decrease in Henry County

☐ Encourage after school programs to provide sex and abstinence education and to develop awareness of sexually transmitted diseases

☐ Form partnership with schools, clergy, and service providers to support At-Risk youths and promote teen pregnancy prevention efforts

☐ Development parenting/mentoring programs

☐ Establish a family resource center

Every child in Henry County has access to an appropriate, quality education

☐ Establish education/work force development programs to prepare youth for work

☐ Make available job training for existing and new businesses

☐ Work to increase funding for reading initiative

☐ Work to increase funding for pre K programs

☐ Provide parenting classes for parents with kids enrolled in pre K

☐ Encourage support of Boys and Girls Clubs

☐ Expand reading and learning programs in Henry County libraries

☐ Establish a family resource center

HEALTH

Decrease Number of Births to Unmarried Teens

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Emphasize education using multi-component interventions-after school programs, awareness of STD's, sex education, and abstinence education.

☐ Formation of partnerships with schools, clergy, service providers to support at risk youth and promote teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

☐ Develop parenting/mentoring programs.

☐ Identify ways communities can work together to address unwed and unintended pregnancy.

Infant mortality rates

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Provide knowledge of prenatal care offered within Henry County.

☐ Encourage early and adequate prenatal care

☐ Assist with appropriate referrals to high risk providers as indicated.

☐ Provide transportation when deemed medically necessary.

☐ Provide information to related agencies regarding level of care offered within Henry County.

☐ Coordinate community resources and access to public assistance.

Measures

Baseline: Infant mortality rate 14.0.

Goal: Infant mortality rate 9.4.

Baseline: Births to unmarried teens 11.2.

Goal: Births to unmarried teens 10.0.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□FD8

Explanation: Provide and or increase funding for programs designed to decrease number of births to unmarried teens.

□FD12

Explanation: Provide and or increase funding for programs designed to decrease infant mortality rate.

SAFETY

Juvenile Violent Crime

Policy Council Action Steps

□Acquire, fund and fully operate Family Resource Center.

□Expand School Resource Officer Program to include an After School Program.

□Provide Programs for schools that express consequences for violent actions (Scared Straight and Free By Choice).

Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

□Focus on Education regarding Juvenile Drug Abuse.

□Coordinate drug education resources in schools.

□Encourage Court Referral to assist in Juvenile AA meetings/classes.

Measures

□**Baseline:** 31 cases of juvenile violent crime reported in 2002.

□**Goal:** Reduce juvenile violent crime by 25%.

□**Baseline:** 48 cases of juvenile substance abuse reported in 2002.

□**Goal:** Reduce juvenile substance abuse by 25%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□YD3

Explanation: Council intends to expand the At-Risk Officer Program to include After School Program and Resource Library.

□YD1

Explanation: Children Policy Council intends to assist Boys and Girls Club in securing needed assistance for expanding and building need facilities.

□YD6

Explanation: Children Policy Council intends to explore the use of young adults to mentor their peer group regarding issues of substance abuse.

EDUCATION

Elementary Retention Rates

Policy Council Action Steps

□Provide after school program.

□Lower student teacher ratio.

□Provide parenting classes.

Dropout Rates

Policy Council Action Steps

□Assist and encourage Board of Education in establishing Hope High School (a last chance effort in helping children graduate).

□Develop Leadership Development Program (coordinated with business and industries).

□Provide for after school remediation classes (perhaps through Boys and Girls Club).

□Fund Boys and Girls Club in Abbeville and Headland.

Measures

□**Baseline:** First grade retention rate 10.9.

□**Goal:** First grade retention rate 7.3.

□**Baseline:** Projected dropout rate 20.8.

□**Goal:** Projected dropout rate 15.5.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□AD7

Explanation: Children's Policy Council requests that the State assist them in funding tutoring and academic counseling for academically weak students.

□AD1

Explanation: Children's Policy Council request that the State assist the County to develop a career link program which would allow academically weak students to receive training which would prepare them for the job market.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Economic Development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Work to retain and expand existing business through Henry County Economic Development Authority and other groups.
- ❑ Prepare county for new business/industry by identifying obstacles and implementing solutions.
- ❑ Train people under State Programs.

Educate and Train Children For Workplace

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Establish education/workforce development programs to prepare youth for work.
- ❑ Make available job training for existing and new business.
- ❑ Develop motivation programs for youth ages 16-20.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Unemployment rate 8%.
- ❑ **Goal:** Unemployment rate 4%.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Children in poverty 27%.
- ❑ **Goal:** Children in poverty 21.2%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ ED9, ED11

Explanation: Create on job training programs forming a five county education/industry alliance through AIDT (Alabama Industrial Development Training).

- ❑ ED1

Explanation: Prepare students by providing after school programs.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Children With Special Needs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Educate Parents.
- ❑ Educate daycare providers to identify children with special needs.
- ❑ Work with Early Intervention, Family Guidance, and Spectra Care.

Parenting Education for Young Parents/Education for Pre-K children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Parenting classes for parents with children enrolled in Pre-K programs.
- ❑ Increase funding for Pre-K programs.
- ❑ Education through the Extension Office.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** First grade retention rate 10.9%.
- ❑ **Goal:** First grade retention rate 7.5%.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Vulnerable families 9.2%.
- ❑ **Goal:** Vulnerable families 7.5%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ CD7

Explanation: Children's Policy Council requests the State to assist in the implementation of a data base to include all high risk children between 0-19.

- ❑ CD2

Explanation: Develop a referral system that would include all agencies using the above mentioned data base.

Houston County

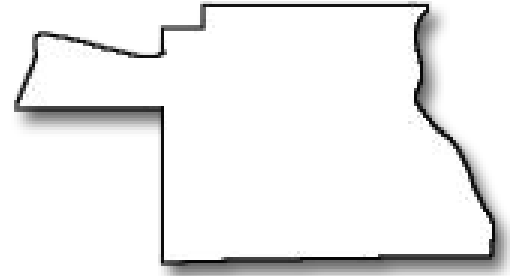
Houston County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Jerry White, District Court Judge

Connie Jenkins
Debbie Riggs
Ann Marie Schwartz
Peggy Blakeney
Rep. Locy Baker
Keith Givens
Linda O'Connell
Jaime Stuckey
Charlotte Kirkland
Mary Paulk
Gerald Love

Walt Bowers
Linda Sanders
Doug Valeska
Mark Culver
Marian Loftin
Reafield Vester
Rosalind James
Phyllis Logdson
Ed Enloe
Beverly Smith
Phillip Calvert

Angela Underwood
Sen. Harri Anne Smith
Sheriff Lamar Glover
Lori Gulley
Sherryl Walker
JoAn Avant-Breth
Berta Blackwell
Rebekah Troutman
Connie Jenkins
Cindy Skipper



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Safety--Substance abuse will be reduced among children

☐ Increase enforcement of existing laws and start referrals to teen court, teen accountability for teen substance abuse by creating teen court and education of dangers of substance abuse.

Health--Percentage of births to unmarried teens will decline

☐ Assist with identifying contacts for outreach activities. Be cognizant of and support pregnancy prevention programs within the schools, health department, local community and other agencies, and encourage

application for funding for school-based social worker pilot program by local Department of Education.

Early Care and Education--Children will be healthy and ready to learn when entering school

☐ To continue to provide literacy programs to high-risk families. Continue circle training at Head Start. Continue Baby Talk program to deliver board books to every new born baby of families receiving care at the Houston County Health Department, Dothan city School's Pregnant Teen Program and families participation in the Family Builders and Early Head Start programs at the ASFSC as long as funds exist.

HEALTH

High percentage of births to unmarried teens will decline

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Raise awareness of pregnancy prevention programs by updating resource guide.
- ☐ Research and apply for funding opportunities.

All children will be receive health insurance coverage

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Raise awareness of Alabama's children's Health Insurance Programs through public awareness announcements through media.

☐ Insurance Programs such as All Kids. Medicaid, Alabama Child Caring Foundation will be available at local non-profits, public schools, Health Department and other areas.

Measures

☐ Births to unmarried teens.

Baseline: 9.85 or 137 births.

Goal: Reduce percentage of births to unmarried teens by 2%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Network with county health departments, schools and other agencies to improve access to social worker services; FD8 & FD9.
- ☐ Pass Governor Riley's Tax Reform Plan; FD12.

SAFETY

Substance abuse will be reduced among children and adolescents

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase substance abuse prevention activities.
- ☐ Increase enforcement of existing laws.
- ☐ Increase teen accountability by creating teen court.

Children will be safe in their homes

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Implement parenting programs.
- ☐ Increase multidisciplinary intervention when abuse occurs.

Measures

- ☐ Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate.
Baseline: Juvenile S.A. arrest rate is 116; court referral is 176.
Goal: Reduce by 5%.
- ☐ Children with indication of abuse or neglect.
Baseline: 171 indicated reports of abuse and neglect.
Goal: Reduce by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Increase Funds for prevention services and subsidize DHR by 10%; Y07, Y08, FD2 & FD6.
- ☐ Provide funding for local teen court; YD3, YD4, MHI & MH7.

EDUCATION

Improve exposure to career counseling at Middle School level

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Submit concern to Education Foundation, which are currently studying/reviewing education policies and procedures for Houston County and Dothan City Schools.
- ☐ Pursue implementation of state Course of Study at the Middle School level.

Improve parents/students knowledge of career/technical school opportunities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Partner with Dothan Technology Center & Houston County Career and Technology Center to publicize Parent-Student Conference to raise awareness of course offerings.
- ☐ Work closely with high school administrators, counselors and teachers to foster positive awareness and encourage attendance at conference.

Measures

- ☐ Event Dropout rate.
Baseline: 5.1% or 271; 51 out of 67 counties.
Goal: Reduce event dropout rate by 5%.
- ☐ Projected dropout rate.
Baseline: 19.1 % or 236; 51 out of 67 counties.
Goal: Reduce projected dropout rate by 5%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Parent involvement/participation; AD3.
- ☐ Teacher/counselor/parent training on career/ technical development; AD9.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of affordable and dependable resources for low-income families in the area of transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Participate in the locally developed transportation committee.
- ☐ Develop strategies to improve access to transportation. Work with legislature to focus on statewide transportation issues for low-income families.

Lack of affordable and dependable resources for low-income families in the area of child care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with local Family Guidance Center.
- ☐ Develop strategies to improve access and resources for subsidized childcare for low-income families and working poor.

- ☐ Work with local legislators to focus on statewide childcare funding for low-income families and the working poor.
- ☐ Encourage the passage of tax reform.

Measures

- ☐ Children in poverty.

Baseline: 21.1% or 4,813; Ranked 28 out of 67 counties.

Goal: Reduce poverty in children by 5%.

- ☐ Vulnerable families.

Baseline: 13.5% or 72; ranked 35 out of 67 counties.

Goal: Reduce vulnerable families by 5%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Increase childcare subsidies, slot expansion for vulnerable families and children living in poverty; CD5.
- ☐ Encourage passage of Tax reform measure; FD12.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

To provide literacy programs to high-risk families along with implementing remedial -type reading classes for adults with low literacy levels

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Collaborate with WCC's Adult Education Department for literacy training class for adults, contact local church groups to seek tutors and mentors.
- ☐ Continue with various local literacy programs.

Increase parental awareness of health and safety issues for children birth - 5 years, including children with special needs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with health/safety committee to bring awareness of this issue to population.

Measures

- ☐ First grade retention rate

Baseline: 7.1% or 82; ranked 45 out of 67 counties.

Goal: To decrease retention rate in first grade by 3%.

- ☐ Children with indication of abuse or neglect.

Baseline: 7.4% or 171; ranked 42 out of 67 counties.

Goal: Reduce indications of abuse or neglect by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ More funds to provide training and equipment for providers caring for children with special needs; CD2 & FD1.
- ☐ Wellness health information: health behavior, nutrition, etc.; PH10.
- ☐ Training to recognize abuse in children; CD5.

Jackson County

Jackson County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Ralph H. Grider, District Court Judge



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All children in Jackson County will have adequate and affordable transportation to and from services, as needed.

☐Funding should be allocated to provide these services in this large rural county.

All children in Jackson County will be afforded the ability to grow up in an environment free of crystal methamphetamine.

☐Mandatory sentencing guidelines must be established for adults who manufacture crystal methamphetamine in the presence of children.

☐Funding should be allocated for the completion of forensics narcotics evaluation to expedite trials of those charged with possession and manufacture of crystal methamphetamine.

All children in Jackson County will be afforded the opportunity to have quality and affordable child care services in a licensed facility, twenty four hours per day.

☐Funding should be allocated to subsidize payments for childcare services.

HEALTH

Jackson County lacks adequate transportation resources to ensure children and their families are able to keep necessary medical appointments

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Request local government emphasis in obtaining adequate and affordable transportation resources for all residents of Jackson County.
- ☐Provide education on and promote use of transportation voucher system of Medicaid.
- ☐Promote the enrollment and maintenance of children in the Medicaid and AllKids insurance programs.
- ☐Provide support and assist in recruiting for community volunteer transportation programs.

Infant, child and adolescent residents of Jackson County have great difficulty in accessing medical specialist, dentist and allied health care professionals in the local area

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Encourage the continued local recruitment of medical specialist, dentist, and allied health providers who will accept Medicaid and AllKids insurance
- ☐Encourage all local medical specialist to accept Medicaid.
- ☐Promote the enrollment and maintenance of children in the Medicaid and AllKids insurance programs.

Lack of foreign language interpreters exist in Jackson County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐To take proactive steps to obtain grant interpreter services within Jackson County.
- ☐Establish multi-agency work group to establish co-op for providing interpreter services.
- ☐Actively recruit interpreter businesses to Jackson County
- ☐To encourage enrollment in available health insurance programs.

There is a lack of trained volunteers to serve on the on-call staff for the Sart/Sane Sexual Abuse/Rape victim examination

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Actively recruit volunteers to serve on the on-call rotation for the program from local medical services providers.
- ☐Assist in obtaining funding for the reimbursement of the on-call staff.
- ☐Participate in fund raising campaigns for the Sart/Sane programs.
- ☐Participate in the training of the volunteers.

Measures

Baseline: The amount of appointments missed by healthcare consumers is very high resulting in increased healthcare cost.

Goal: To reduce the number of missed appointments due to inadequate transportation by at 10%.

Baseline: Only two pediatricians and two dentists accept Medicaid within Jackson County.

Goal: To improve the local access to medial specialist, dentist, and allied health professionals in Jackson County by increasing the number of dentist, medical specialist and allied health professionals in the county.

Baseline: Number of internal interpreters available in the county.

Goal: To add at least 5 internal interpreters available in the county.

Baseline: Only limited coverage can be provided for the on-call rotation of the Sart/Sane Sexual Abuse/Rape victim examination program in Jackson County.

Goal: To increase the number of staff by recruiting, training, and retaining staff to ensure that twenty-four hour per day coverage can be provided in the county. Coverage needs to be for both pediatric and adult referrals.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐OS2
- ☐PH2, PH11, MH9
- ☐PH11, MH9, CD7, YD11, FD12
- ☐YD8, FD2

SAFETY

To decrease the rampant use of crystal methamphetamine and other drugs in the child and adolescent population

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐To promote an increase in community awareness and involvement.
- ☐To develop and implement prevention program targeting parents of middle and junior high school grade levels to reduce recurrent use of alcohol and drugs.
- ☐To develop a community based support group (AA/NA) to assist in decreasing alcohol and drug and promote recovery for middle and high school students.

Measures

Baseline: Number of substance abuse treatment referrals.

Goal: To increase the number of substance abuse treatment referrals.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐OS4

EDUCATION

There is an increase of children entering school with medical issues that require invasive procedures; these procedures must be performed by medical license personnel only

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Provide a competitive salary in order to recruit competent LPNs and RNs to work in the Jackson County School System.

- ❑ Establish a partnership-in-education with the nursing program at the local community college and the Jackson County School System.
- ❑ Continue to provide nurses at the schools where invasive procedures are necessary.
- ❑ Continue to provide professional development activities for these nurses to stay current on proper techniques and procedures.

There is an increase of children with aggressive, violent, and drug related behavior in our school system; this inappropriate behavior interferes with academic instruction and social development and in many cases result in suspension or expulsion from school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Contract with a therapist that specializes in anger management and drug abuse to provide counseling for students.
- ❑ Establish and train a Behavior Team at each school in the Positive Behavior Support method.
- ❑ Educate the school staff on symptoms of drug abuse including the signs of crystal methamphetamine use.

Measures

❑Baseline: The number of children with medical needs that require invasive procedures and the number of nurses hired to meet these needs as of the end of the 02-03 school year and the 03-04 school year.

Goal: To increase the number of school nurses in the Jackson County System to address the health and medical issues of the children while they are at school. These nurses would also be the liaison between the doctors and school system to ensure that proper medical and health care are being provided at school.

❑Baseline: The number of suspensions/expulsion cases brought before the Jackson County Board of Education.

Goal: Decrease the number of suspension/expulsion cases brought before the Jackson County Board of Education.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Promote the Business and Workforce Development Programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continue to identify, prioritize, and address countywide issues that impact economic prosperity.
- ❑ Implementation of our workforce development/education programs that assists citizens in acquiring skills and knowledge to participate in the world of work.
- ❑ Implementation of a retail/commercial program that focuses on recruitment of new business and expansion/retaining current business in the county.

Children must have quality care while their parents work or attend education/training programs in order to provide them with a financially stable home and meet their basic needs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Work with local entities to maintain current data/statistics as to the need for additional child care facilities and/or care on weekends and 2nd and 3rd shifts.
- ❑ Educate existing county childcare facilities and licensed family and group home that will accommodate the childcare needs of all the working families in the county.
- ❑ Encourage development of new child care center facilities and licensed family and group home that will accommodate the childcare needs of all the working families in the county.
- ❑ Work with the Child Care Resource Network and the Department of Human Resources to get additional funding needed to increase the number of slots and the rate of supported childcare payments for low income families.

Measures

❑Baseline: Number of existing programs.

Goal: Development of five workforce/education programs that assist citizens to participate in the current and future workforce of Jackson County and to implementation of four programs to recruit new business and maintain existing businesses.

❑Baseline: Current statistic on dropout rate, illiteracy rate and number with HS diploma or equivalent.

Goal: Reduce high school dropout rate to below state average, reduce the illiteracy rate 5% and increase the number of people who have HS diploma or GED by 10% within the next ten years.

❑Baseline: Establish need for expansion of existing facilities and/or creation of new facilities.

Goal: Increase the number of childcare slots by the creation of new facilities or expanded facilities and to provide childcare around the clock.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ CD1, CD3, CD4, CD5, YD1, YD2, YD10, ED3, OS3

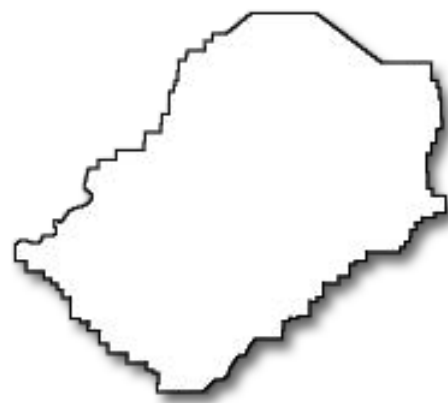
Explanation: DHR and Childcare Resource Network to work with local entities.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Sandra H Storm, Juvenile Court Judge

There are well over 180 persons listed as members or friends of the Jefferson County Children's Policy Council. For space reasons they are not listed here.



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Advocate for permanent, adequate funding for public schools

☐ Provide adequate and permanent funding without state-level restrictions and ensure accountability is addressed.

Advocate for expanded school health services to include school nurses, mental health providers and case managers in schools based upon community/school district needs

☐ Advocate for and fund a system of school-based physical and mental health services provided by school nurses,

social workers, case managers, school counselors and other mental health professionals based on community needs.

Develop and implement mechanisms for maximizing state match to secure the maximum Federal CCDB (Child Care and Development Block Grant Funds)

☐ Insure that state funding for childcare is always adequate to draw down maximum federal match.

HEALTH

Advocate for expanded school health services to include school nurses, mental health providers and case managers in schools based upon community/school district needs

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Review the school health service needs of the school districts within Jefferson County.

A. Develop a school health survey to be used as an annual assessment instrument to identify and articulate school health service needs.

B. Assess by school district, school health models currently being used.

☐ Articulate the various models of school health that are currently utilized with the county.

☐ Advocate for fiscal support for existing and evolving projects that expand school health services.

Integrate mental health into the health care system and increase access to mental health care

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Compile a list of available mental health services.

☐ Identify gaps in existing mental health services.

☐ Improve mental health knowledge base of non-mental health providers who deal with children's mental health issues.

☐ Public awareness of need for mental health care for all children.

☐ Educate non-mental health providers on resources available for mental health care.

Measures

☐ A detailed and comprehensive needs assessment of all school systems/districts in Jefferson County.

Baseline: Five of the 11 needs assessments have been completed.

Goal: Complete needs assessment of remaining six school systems by August 1, 2003.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Advocate for and fund a school nurse for every public school campus.
- ☐ Advocate for and fund a system of school-based mental health services provided by social workers, case managers, school counselors and other mental health professionals based on community needs.
- ☐ Secure funding base for CHIP: All-Kids, SOBRA Medicaid and Alabama Child Caring Foundation.

SAFETY

Enhance information sharing regarding misdemeanors, felonies, school suspensions and school expulsions among school systems, law enforcement agencies, courts, Department of Human Resources, Department of Mental Health and Department of Youth Services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Contact National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for model legislation and statistics on efficacy of information sharing programs.
- ☐ Identify key House/Senate leaders who are likely to support legislation and funding for information sharing projects.
- ☐ Present recommendations regarding contact of key House/Senate leaders to Children's Policy Council
- ☐ Contact key House/Senate leaders.

Increase number of School Resource Officers in schools

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek funding to augment COPS in Schools grant
- ☐ Make sure every school in city/county is aware of the benefits of SRO initiatives.
- ☐ Identify people who would serve as technical assistants to those agencies requesting grant writing assistance.
- ☐ Identify people who would serve as technical assistants to those schools/law enforcement agencies interested in establishing school-based law enforcement initiatives.
- ☐ Lobby City Council and County Commission for continued support of SRO initiatives.

Measures

☐ Information sharing.

Baseline: Information sharing ability is inadequate under current law.

Goal: To host three public forums for the purpose of identifying elements of an adequate law. To draft a statute that enhances information sharing regarding misdemeanors, felonies, school suspensions and school expulsions among school systems, law enforcement agencies, courts, Department of Human Resources, Department of Mental Health and Department of Youth Services.

☐ Number of School Resource Officers in Jefferson County.

Baseline: 54 School Resource Officers in Jefferson County.

Goal: Increase number of School Resource Officer in Jefferson County by 10%.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Advocate for and fund adequate residential treatment programs for adolescents with substance abuse problems.
- ☐ Advocate for a state statute that allows for information sharing regarding misdemeanors, felonies, school suspensions and school expulsions among school systems, law enforcement agencies, courts, Department of Human Resources, Department of Mental Health and Department of Youth Services.
- ☐ Seek funding for permanent placement of School Resource Officers in every school in Alabama.

EDUCATION

Advocate for permanent, adequate funding for public schools

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Write a resolution supporting permanent, adequate funding.
- ☐ Present resolution for adoption to members of the Jefferson County Children's Policy Council.
- ☐ Distribute resolution to the other Policy Councils for adoption.
- ☐ Schedule Charles Mason, Superintendent of Mountain Brook Schools to present a program for the Jefferson County Children's Policy Council concerning the current state of education funding in the state of Alabama.
- ☐ Schedule Susan Hamill, advocate for tax and education reform to present to the Policy Council.
- ☐ Organize legislative advocacy training for Policy Council members. Training will be provided by Amanda Vaughn, Director of Campaign for Alabama Grassroots committee

- ❑ Draft a "marketing piece" to concisely communicate the problem of insufficient funding to a broad audience in a personal way and ask for them to call their legislators in support of education funding.
- ❑ Coordinate efforts of local policy council with other reform groups such as the Campaign for Alabama, A+ and the Citizen's Commitment.

Increase faculty, staff, parental and community awareness of services available

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Specify targeted services.
- ❑ Identify services currently available in the community.
- ❑ Identify existing collaborations of service providers.
- ❑ Identify potential collaborators.
- ❑ Create a website listing available services or ensure existing website includes targeted services.
- ❑ Create various print versions of available services.
- ❑ Identify and implement distribution channels for print information.
- ❑ Place a directory of services in the blue pages of the telephone directory.

Measures

- ❑ Amount and quality of information available regarding gaps in services to children and families.

Baseline: Unknown.

Goal: Identification of needed services for children and families.

- ❑ Funding sources for education.

Baseline: Unknown.

Goal: Identification of funding services.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Funding without state-level restrictions (allow local boards and community representatives to make decisions).
- ❑ Incentives and support for schools to collaborate via the Children's Policy Council with outside entities such as agencies, organizations and corporations for needed services.
- ❑ Advocate for and fund a school nurse for every public school campus.
- ❑ Advocate for and fund a system of school-based mental health services provided by social workers, case managers, school counselors and other mental health professionals based on community needs.
- ❑ Lower the age of required school attendance from 7 to 5.
- ❑ Provide adequate and permanent funding without state-level restrictions and ensure accountability is addressed.
- ❑ Develop a system to monitor student enrollment and attendance within and across school districts/systems and

allocate funding to provide for sufficient personnel to address school attendance issues.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Advocate maximizing the effectiveness of the Alabama Career One-Stops (four located in Jefferson County: Employment Service, Jefferson State Community College, Lawson State Community College and Bessemer State Technical College) for consistent, comprehensive youth career planning, development, training and employment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Obtain active Children's Policy Council participation on the Workforce Investment Board Youth Council that appropriates DOL funds in Jefferson County; on the One-Stop Committee to advocate for enhancement of One-Stop services for youth; and on the Marketing Committee to advocate for dissemination of technical education career information.

Advocate for comprehensive career counseling opportunities for youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Develop a strategy coordinated with the United Way's Central Alabama's Promise for implementing SUCCEED (the life skills/marketable skills training curricula developed through the CPC Economic Security Committee in FY 2003) in the schools and in youth-serving program activities utilizing existing curricula and expanding delivery systems.

Measures

- ❑ Coordination of efforts by Jefferson County CPC and Jefferson County Workforce Investment Board to maximize effectiveness of Alabama Career One-Stops.
- Baseline:** Jefferson County CPC members currently have no representation on the Workforce Investment Youth Council.
- Goal:** Representation on the Jefferson County Workforce Investment Board by one member of the CPC Economic Security Committee.

☐ Accurate and current information regarding comprehensive career counseling.

Baseline:

Goal: Obtain information on national best practices in career counseling and meet with area colleges/universities, human resources representatives, and One-Stop representatives to identify components of local career counseling programs.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Mandatory coordination between Children's Policy Councils and entities receiving funding from the Department of Labor for developing systems for youth career planning, development, training and employment.

EARLY CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

Develop and implement mechanisms for maximizing state match to secure the maximum Federal CCDB (Child Care and Development Block Grant Funds)

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Gather information on the Federal funds Alabama has returned to Washington due to lack of state match (from 2000 thru 2002: \$ 27.4 million).

☐ Appear on Alabama Public Television's For the Record on March 11 re: child care standards and how they effect cost.

☐ Develop a Fact Sheet with information and talking points on the need for state expenditures on child care.

☐ Publicize National Children's Call In Days to members of Congress.

☐ Expand committee to include members outside of the field of Early Care and Education.

☐ Presented an Early Care and Education program for the Jefferson County Children's Policy Council.

☐ Disseminate a legislative alert regarding child care needs to Children's Policy Councils throughout the state.

☐ Participate in the Alabama Partnership for Children's Match Task Force.

☐ Apply to the Alabama Partnership for Children for a technical assistance grant through the National Smart Start Technical Assistance Center.

☐ Meet with the Birmingham News Editorial Board to generate interest in child care issues.

☐ Meet with representatives of Campaign for Alabama about including early care issues as part of education reform.

Increase community awareness of importance of early learning based on 0-3 brain development research

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Invite experts to speak to the Children's Policy Council on this issue.

☐ Develop a simple message that can be told on billboards or PSAs.

☐ Identify partners, including outdoor advertising and media.

☐ Advocate for Children's Policy Councils to participate in decision making on the distribution of funds from CCDF to allocate more to childcare worker training.

Measures

☐ First grade retention rate.

Baseline: 594 Jefferson County public school first graders were not promoted to the second grade in 2000.

Goal: Reduce number of non-promotions by 10%.

☐ Number of licensed child care centers and homes.

Baseline: Jefferson County had 651 legal child day care facilities as of September and December 2000.

Goal: Increase the number of child day care facilities by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Insure that state funding for childcare is always adequate to draw down maximum federal match.

☐ Institute a state child care income tax credit that equals the federal tax credit.

☐ Ensure that the Alabama Partnership for Children is designated by DHR to be the non-profit entity through which private and corporate funds can be used to draw down federal match for child care.

Lamar County

Lamar County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Lewis. E. Gosa, District Court Judge

James Morton
Donnie Winters
Peggy Wright
Hon. Roger Bedford
Charles Cook
Ronald Strawbridge, Sr.
Paul Young
Lenetta Barnes

Josephine Byrd
Eugenie Nickell
Gerald Hughes
Alex Brown
Hon. Johnny Rogers
Jackie Mitchell
Fayrene H. Turner
Mayor Al Elbert

Robert Matthews
Linda Robertson
Hon. William Thigpen
Geraldine S. Walton
Rev. O. L. Morgan, Jr.
Tonya Johnson
Dr. Barbara R. Williams
Terry Perkins



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term Detention Center

- ☐ Keep submitting grant application for approval.

Parenting Classes

- ☐ Secure funding to provide parenting classes.

A full time GED program

- ☐ Research for grant opportunities to secure funds for hiring more GED teachers.

HEALTH

Health Screening for Children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote public awareness and education.
- ☐ Provide handouts and pamphlets to inform parents and caregivers.
- ☐ Work with county school nurse to promote awareness within the school system.

Need for Family Planning

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide automated information Hot Line.
- ☐ Provide handouts and pamphlets to inform students.

Measures

Baseline: There are currently no efforts being made to increase public awareness of the importance of routine health screenings for children.

Goal: Distribute and provide educational materials to agencies involved with children in the county.

Baseline: There are no anonymous family planning resources.

Goal: To set up an anonymous family planning Hot Lines.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide funding so information can be provided to families on health related issues.

Explanation: Self-Explanatory.

SAFETY

Short-Term Detention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The grant application was not approved. It has been resubmitted for a second review.
- ☐ Preliminary inspection by the Department of Youth Services.
- ☐ Coordination and approval by County Commission.

Need for On-Site Law Officer at Schools

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Search for available grants to fund.

Measures

Baseline: Current distance to detention center is approximately 120 miles.

Goal: Local Short-Term Detention Center.

- Baseline:** Cameras have been placed in the school, but there is not on-site protection.
Goal: On-site officer during school hours.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide funds for a Short-Term Detention Center.
Explanation: Self-Explanatory.
☐ Make monies available to the Local School System so an on-site officer can be hired.

EDUCATION

A full-time GED Program

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with the Lamar County Board of Education to increase the number of hours a week GED classes are available.
☐ Seek funding for GED program and tutoring programs through State agencies.
☐ Seek funding for transportation for GED and SOS students.

Reduce the number of discipline problems in the Lamar County School System

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish a committee of school administrators, parents, and Juvenile Court personnel to discuss ways to reduce these problems.
☐ Review the causes of discipline referrals and take corrective action.
☐ Employ additional personnel at the alternative school to meet the needs of the alternative students.

Measures

- Baseline:** GED classes are offered 2 nights a week.
Goal: GED classes will be offered 4 days a week from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Baseline: Non-Measurable.
Goal: The number of discipline referrals made to the office and to Lamar County Juvenile court will be drastically reduced.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Adequate funding of Public Education by the legislature.
Explanation: School systems are under staffed, which causes more discipline problems due to the supervision

- ☐ Adequate funding for transportation.
Explanation: Students are not able to get to their GED classes due to the lack of transportation.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of Available Day Care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Request legislative action to reduce standards for home day care.
☐ Request more local day care training from child day care management agencies.

Need of Full Time GED program

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote weekend GED classes.
☐ Provide day care for GED participants.
☐ Provide Transportation.

Measures

- Baseline:** We currently have only 12 homes available for day care in Lamar County.
Goal: Increase availability by relaxing state standards.
Baseline: GED night classes are available 2 times per week.
Goal: GED classes will be offered 4 days a week from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Relax state standards for home day cares.
Explanation: State standards are too strict on home day care providers; therefore, the cost to meet standards is enormous. This is resulting in fewer day cares.
☐ Provide monies to hire more GED teachers in the Lamar County area.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Lamar County is in need of more day care facilities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Write grants to secure more funds for day cares.
☐ Collaborate with local agencies to provide training for day care workers.

☐Request legislative action to reduce standards for home day care.

Parenting classes should be available to all parents and professionals who are in contact with children or have children of their own

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Write grants to state agencies to secure funds for Parenting classes.
- ☐Collaborate with Fayette and Pickens Counties to secure monies for a Family Resource Center.
- ☐Local agencies will collaborate together to conduct parenting workshops and seminars on issues dealing with early care and education.

Measures

- ☐**Baseline:** 12 home day cares.
- Goal:** Increase the number by 5.
- ☐**Baseline:** Non-Measurable.
- Goal:** Make parenting classes available.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Relax standards for day cares.
Explanation: People who want to start day cares do not have the funding available to meet all the state required guidelines.
- Make funding available for a Family Resource Center.
Explanation: Students are not able to get to their GED classes due to the lack of transportation.

Lauderdale County

Lauderdale County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Larry M. Smith, Circuit Court Judge

Pam Barksdale
Dr. Kendy Behrends
Mike Bishop
Cindy Bratcher
Mike Broadfoot
James Clay
Dr. Richard Davy
Sen. Bobby Denton
Jerry Fulmer
Tomika Gaddis
Steve Graham
Nathalie Hayes

Margie Kingsley
Steve Lafreniere
Bryan Libell
Chief Bill Lovelace
Robert Matthews
Hon. Dewey Mitchell
Althea McClellan
Audrey McDaniel
Beverly McLaughlin
Sergeant Pettius
Lagretta Raltiff
Georgia Hale

Lisa Rickman
Teresa Roberson
Shaler Roberts
Nancy Secor
Themika Sims
Lt. Melissa B. Spangler
Rep. Nelson Starkey
Jan Thompson
Sheriff Billy Townsend
Heath Trousdale
Gary Webb
Nina Williams



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Establish Family Resource Center

Quality Childcare/Parenting Programs

CITY Program/Day Treatment Program

☐ The Lauderdale County Children's Policy Council has identified the issues listed above as our priorities. These were selected after needs were determined within our community. (You will note action steps to accomplish this listed on Committee Reports.) It is recommended that state and local funds be available for projects such as these. When possible, federal funds will also be sought.

HEALTH/SAFETY

Parenting Education/Skills Development

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Organize multi-agency effort to compel parents to participate in Parenting Education/Skill Development.

A multi-agency Day Treatment Program providing Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment for children

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Organization of a health sub committee to address needs and research ways to acquire funding for Day Treatment Services.

☐ Continue to pursue Our Kids Funding and other funding.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Identify current parenting programs.

Goal: Publish schedule of meetings and make available. Identify obstacles to participation and resources needed to overcome.

☐ **Baseline:** Currently no Day Treatment Program for Substance Abuse of Mental Health Treatment exist
Goal: Establishment of Day Treatment Program.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Funding and statewide strategies to facilitate participation; YD 7.

☐ Funding and funding opportunities for these services; PH 5.

EDUCATION

There is a lack of resources for treatment and academic development for youth who have chronic attendance and behavioral problems at school, who are at risk for dropping out of school, juvenile offenders, youth under child protective services, youth after completion of residential

treatment, hard to serve in employment and training and at risk youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continue to make efforts to acquire funding for the Community Intensive Treatment Program for Youth (C.I.T.Y.). C.I.T.Y. is a comprehensive day treatment and alternative education program.
- ❑ Implement a comprehensive day treatment/alternative education program (C.I.T.Y.).

Helping families who have children who are chronically truant address barriers that affect their school attendance

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Establish a Truancy Review Board that will consist of six members. These members will include a juvenile probation officer, the county and city attendance officers, two parents (one from the county and one from the city) and a social worker from the Family Resource Center or Children's Policy Council. The duties of this board will be to hear complaints from parents as to why their children have been tardy or absent to school. The board will then make recommendations to the required agency for assistance. Building principals will make referrals. The board will meet weekly to address complaints.

Measures

❑ **Baseline:** Currently there is no day treatment/alternative education program in Lauderdale County.

Goal: Establish and implement a C.I.T.Y. program for the at risk youth in this county.

❑ **Baseline:** There are currently no methods to address truancy issues other than through the court system.

Goal: Develop Truancy Review Board .
Implement the Truancy Review Board process.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

❑ Case management: case ordination across agencies, multiple services, assessment/referral and follow-up; YD2. Delinquency prevention/intervention: court services worker, school resource officer, anger management class, conflict resolution class; YD3.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Family Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continue the collaboration of service agencies, business leaders and city and county leader to establish a Family Resource Center. Community Action Agencies of Northwest Alabama, Inc. will the agency to handle funds.
- ❑ Find a facility that is convenient and adequate for needs now and for growth.
- ❑ Use United Way Community Needs Assessment to determine the greatest needs to be provided by Center.
- ❑ Continue to search for funding grants, in-kind and donations.

Measures

❑ **Baseline:** In February, The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations reported unemployment for Lauderdale County to be 8.7 %. There were 5,320 residents of Colbert and Lauderdale Counties receiving unemployment benefits. The Lauderdale County Food Stamp Program showed 3,621 children under the age of 18 receiving food stamps. Services are scattered and the residents make more visits for services therefore, transportation needs are increased. More resources and time are required.

Goal: Reduce time client is involved in system. Reduce service duplication Service providers share resources. Save money for the system. Help families build upon their strengths and increase self-sufficiency by empowering them through skill building, information, encouragement and direction. Reduce vulnerable families to 8% from 11.6%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

❑ Family Resource Center, multiple services; FD3.

❑ Case Management; case coordination across agencies, multiple services (assessment , referral and follow-up); FD1.

❑ Parent Involvement/participation; AD3.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Quality Child Care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Support the established PreK sites and apply for other PreK grants as they become available.
- ❑ Write a grant to bring an Early Start site into Lauderdale County.

Need for a facility to house and coordinate parenting programs

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Write a grant to establish a family resource center.

Measures

☐Baseline: No family resource center exists in the area.

Goal: Arrive at a consensus about the programs that should be housed in the family resource center. Write a grant to support the establishment of the family resource center.

☐Baseline: 1 Accredited center in Lauderdale County; 2 PreK sites; 0 Early Start sites

Goal: Establish a tiered system of reimbursement for centers meeting quality standards
Support expansion of PreK in Lauderdale County

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐Quality Improvement; CD5.

☐Early Childhood Education; CD3.

☐Information Distribution; CD6.

Lawrence County

Lawrence County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Randel H. Mullican, District Court Judge

Larry Terry
Matt Stiles
Robert Matthews
LaGretta Ratcliff
Lt. Wade Pruiett
Fountain Green
Dexter Rutherford
Pamela Price

Bradley Cross
Grady Rose
Cathy Sanderson
Jim Osborne
Jody Letson
Linda Robinson
Cathy Stanton
Thomas Jones

Deborah Pirtle
Karen Harris
Tim Sandlin
Tommy Ed Roberts
Ricky Nichols
Bob Lang
Karen Lang



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Drug Prevention

Drop Out Rate

Births to unmarried teens

☐ Fully funded prevention programs (SRO's)

☐ Pregnancy Prevention; FD8.

HEALTH

Births to unmarried teens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ PAT program home visitation.
- ☐ Encourage participation in Even Start Program.
- ☐ Planned Parenthood through Home Ec. Classes.

Child Health Index

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish Tobacco Coalition.
- ☐ Encourage Prenatal Care.
- ☐ Encourage participation in the Health Department Teen Program.

Measures

- ☐ Decrease number of births to unmarried teens.

Baseline: 45
Goal: 1%

- ☐ Increase the number of births with none of the 6 birth characteristics that affect children's later school success.

Baseline: 228
Goal: 2% increase.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Permanent funding of Home Visitation Programs for teenage parents; CD7.

SAFETY

Juvenile Substance Abuse Arrest Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage full funding of School Resource Officers.
- ☐ Continue Project Alert and DARE Learning to live drug free.
- ☐ Zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol in schools.

Juvenile Violent Crime Referral Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Fully funded School Resources Officers.
- ☐ Continue Zero Tolerance.
- ☐ Peer mediation.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count- Number of Adjudicated cases will decrease.

Baseline: 4
Goal: 1%

- ☐ Number of Adjudicated cases will decrease.

Baseline: 48
Goal: 2% decrease

EDUCATION

Event Drop Out Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage Adult Education Program comparable to Even Start.
- ☐ Encourage Involvement in the 21st Century Community Learning Center.
- ☐ Encourage After School Tutoring Program.

Truancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage involvement in the 21st Century.
- ☐ Encourage the expansion of the Early Warning Program.
- ☐ Increase number of truancy officers.

Measures

- ☐ Decrease the number of students who drop out in the grades 9-12.
- Baseline:** 54
Goal: 10%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Fund After-School Tutoring Programs; AD7.
- ☐ Fund Additional Truancy Officers; AD6.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Vulnerable Families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage participation in Even Start.
- ☐ Recommend the Expansion of the home visitation Program for teen-age parents (PAT Program).
- ☐ Continue the Planned Parenthood Classes in the Schools.

Children receiving TANF

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide services to children through Even Start.
- ☐ Recommendation of an Alternative School for Children at risk of dropping out.
- ☐ Encourage participation in Adult Education Classes.

Measures

- ☐ Kid's Count
Baseline: 20
Goal: 1%
- ☐ Kid's Count
Baseline: 184
Goal: 2%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Fully funded programs to serve teen age parents; CD2.
- ☐ Fully funded Alternative Schools; AO1.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Vulnerable Families

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage participation in Even Start.
- ☐ Encourage participation in C&P Child Breakfast Program.
- ☐ Promote public awareness of local immunization programs.

First Grade Retention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage participation in Even Start.
- ☐ Recommend that the local Board of Education provide summer camps for academic enhancement.
- ☐ Encourage participation in the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Measurea

- ☐ Kids Count
Baseline: 20
Goal: 1% decrease
- ☐ Kids Count
Baseline: 20
Goal: 5% decrease

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Promote healthy behavior and nutrition; PH10.
- ☐ Promote after school tutoring; AD7.

Lee County

Lee County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Richard D. Lane, Circuit Court Judge

Nick Abbett
Becky Benton
John Nance Bishop
Lt. Jerry Bradford
ginger Brannon
Mickey Brown
Jan Burke
Jonathan Davis
Trish DeFaffenried
Angie Dollar
Rick Dudley
Dr. Phil Elder
Randall Estese
Marcy Glider
Ruth Hairston
Read Haughery

Ellen Ingram
Sheriff Jay Jones
Lt. Wiley Jordan
Charlene Kam
Hon. Richard Lane
Wanda Lewis
Preston Lomg
Karen Lusk
Wes McCollum
Jennifer Mc Faul
Martha Myers
Chris Nunn
John Painter
Ellie Peavy
Dr. Ann Penney
Gail Piggott

Lynn Rainer
Becky Richardson
Jean Spicer
John Stinson
Sherri Sumners
Laura Thomas
Virginia Thompson
James Thrash
Dr. Tom Tippet
Sharon Tolbert
Lee Tosch
Bill English
Perry Hinds
Rev. Clifford Jones



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Fiscal responsibility training

☐ The State Board of Education should mandate that all high schools in Alabama provide instruction in money management.

Substance Abuse Education, Prevention & Treatment

☐ The State of Alabama should require local law enforcement agencies to provide or sponsor safety education and

awareness to citizens in some public forum regarding child auto restraints at a minimum of two (2) times annually.

Quality early care and education throughout the community with an emphasis on literacy

☐ The State of Alabama should support TEACH and Kidstuff committees that will enhance quality early learning options.

School Readiness

HEALTH

Substance abuse and abuse education and prevention and treatment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify possible resources.
- ☐ Link Health Dept. & ACCADA.
- ☐ 3. Change legislation making purchase of tobacco products not "similar" to uniform non-traffic offense.

Education on child abuse reporting

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work with DHR to provide training to required reporters.
- ☐ Send reminders to individual agencies

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Existing law review of substances.
- Goal :** Change law (re-wording).
- ☐ **Baseline:** How many of mandated reporters have received, or are currently receiving training.
- Goal:** Increase number of trained, mandated reporters.

SAFETY

Increase education and awareness of the need to utilize child automobile restraints

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assess the need for programs to raise awareness and educate adults about the safety and legal issues involved in the use of child automobile restraints in Lee Co., AL.
- ☐ Identify programs available to provide instruction for proper installation of child automobile restraints.

☐ Identify programs in Lee Co., AL, that provide or assist in defraying the cost of child automobile restraints.

Safe places for children and adolescents after school, holidays and summers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assess exiting need for after-school programs as well as for programs to provide supervision to children during semester breaks and on school holidays.
- ☐ Identify existing programs that are currently available in the schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, churches, private providers, etc.
- ☐ Identify mentoring programs for youths such as project Uplift or Youth for Christ.
- ☐ Provide education for "latchkey kids", such as "Home Alone", which is an educational film provided in all city and county schools in Lee Co.

Measures

☐Baseline: Assess the need for education and awareness relative to child auto restraints, based on the number of citations issued during the past 3 yrs. in which restraints were not used or properly installed.

Goal : Through increased awareness and education, parents will utilize auto restraints consistently and properly.

☐Baseline: Need for additional after-school programs will be determined by assessing current usage problems, i.e.: Are the programs full? Are there waiting lists for these programs?

Goal: After-school programs and activities will be available to all children who are in need of after-school supervision, etc., regardless of where they live in Lee Co.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ State of Alabama will require local law enforcement agencies to provide or sponsor safety education and awareness to citizens in some public forum regarding child auto restraints at a minimum of two (2) times annually.
- ☐ The State of Alabama will provide funding to schools specific to providing needed, or enhancing existing after-school programs.

EDUCATION

School Readiness

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assess completely, what are the existing resources/barriers and advantages. Suggestions include

gathering information and networking with Envision Opelika, regional CCRC and Headstart, churches, United Way, and other agencies.

☐ Report strengths and analyze gaps.

☐ Mobilize a concerted effort through interrelated agencies including churches and other faith-based organizations toward improving parent awareness of school readiness advantages, needs, and available services or resources.

Address the county's high levels of illiteracy, truancy, drop-outs with emphasis on character building traits such as responsibility, self-discipline and improving good study and work habits

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop a collaborative way to promote available area literacy activities and to prevent further dropout.
- ☐ Establish a Task Force to coordinate an integrated character building program that widely promotes character building activities such as through church youth directors, public service announcements, and youth organizations besides schools.
- ☐ To assess resource/ barriers and advantages, a committee or paid evaluator should examine these points and report to the CPC with data and suggestions for the next step.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Fiscal Responsibility Training

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assess the level of knowledge of students in schools in Lee Co. in the area of money management.
- ☐ Provide a report on our findings from said assessment to all school systems in Lee Co. and to the Children's Policy Council.
- ☐ Provide information educational opportunities available outside the school setting.

Measures

☐Baseline: Knowledge levels ascertained from the above stated assessment.

Goal : Improvement in level of knowledge in the area of money management by Lee Co.'s teens.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

❑Mandate by Alabama State Bd. Of Education for required high school instruction in money management.

Explanation: Availability of obtaining credit cards in today's society makes it increasingly important that today's youth know the ramifications and pit-falls of "easy-credit".

State Program and Policy Recommendations

❑State of Alabama will support T.E.A.C.H. and Kidstuff committees that will enhance quality early learning options.

❑State of Alabama will provide resources to Children's Policy Councils to coordinate services.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Quality Early Care and Education throughout the community with an emphasis on literacy

Policy Council Action Steps

❑Identify resources for the 0-5 age group that will promote quality early learning experiences.

❑Compile and disseminate resource information to providers and families.

❑Coordinate efforts to address unmet needs through a functioning Kidstuff committee.

Accessibility of quality child care and early learning options

Policy Council Action Steps

❑Promote family community awareness and the importance of quality child care and literacy.

❑Support quality enhancement efforts that result in a more stable, better trained and effective child care workforce.

❑Identify barriers to family accessibility of early learning opportunities.

Measures

❑**Baseline:** A fragmented and uncoordinated system of early care and education with barriers to accessibility.

Goal: Coordinate community wide initiative that expands opportunities for effective early care and education opportunities.

❑**Baseline:** Ongoing community based research has consistently identified accessibility to high quality affordable child care as a need.

Goal: Increase accessibility to affordable high quality child care.

Limestone County

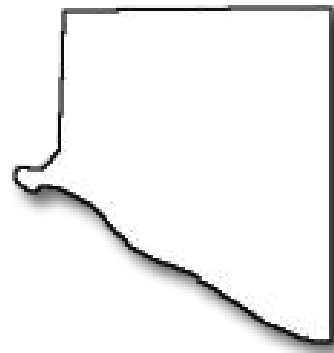
Limestone County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Jeanne W. Anderson, District Court Judge

Caroline Page
Carolyn Miller
Dr. Les Bivens
Dr. James Irby
Robert Valls
Donna Shelton
Kristi Valls
Tommy Carter

Angelo Mancusso
Stanley Menefee
Mike Blakely
Waynes Harper
Suzanne Rainey
Calvin Havens
Susan Fogg
Leo Turner

Dan Williams
Mike Pitsis
Tim McNeill
Rodney Jackson
Lesley Wales
Fred Sloss
Dean Murray
Elizabeth Batts



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Limestone County needs an overseer/developer of a community service program to promote self-responsibility for juvenile delinquents

Alabama should not "privatize" children's services

☐ The Legislature should adequately fund agencies that provide children's services rather than local agencies who do not have the statutory authority to fund themselves. When federal money or Children's First money becomes available, it should go directly to agencies providing services rather than make counties compete with each other through grant application. These essential services are now being provided by "contracts" with no accountability as to responsibility, supervision or plans for continuity should these outside funds become unavailable.

Limestone County has no one to write grants, go to meetings across the state for grant identification or to coordinate and publicize children's issues and services

☐ Each county should be provided with a grant facilitator to secure grants for children's services and to attend state

wide meetings concerning funding opportunities. A full time grant writer for our county would not only alleviate duplication and competition but would insure awareness of grant availability.

Family services are not available locally raising transportation and monitoring issues. Visitation exchanges occur at the jail or parking lots. No permanent place for counseling or classes

☐ Develop a Family Resource Center that could house and coordinate programs which could include supervision of visitation, a safe site for visitation exchange pursuant to court ordered, in-home parenting support, parenting classes, domestic violence prevention, family and individual counseling and homemaking services and education. A child care facility could be included at the location.

Non-criminal adolescents who require immediate removal from their parents or who have been abandoned and do not fit into traditional foster care

☐ Establishment of a shelter/assessment home to provide for assessments and emergency placements for adolescents who are CHINS, dependent or multiple needs children.

HEALTH

Provide non-Medicaid recipients needing mental health treatment with medicine and therapist to counsel children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase number of mental health therapists and counsels.
- ☐ Investigate transportation resources.
- ☐ Publicize availability of increased services.

Expansion of Summer Day Camp to include funding for

non medical recipients and transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Publicize program within schools and community.
- ☐ Solicit volunteers and community support.
- ☐ Increase staff.

Develop a program to provide prenatal care and parenting and nutritional skills to pregnant teens while they are waiting for Medicaid eligibility approval

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Investigate similar programs.
- ☐ Pursue funding through grant writing.
- ☐ Recruit volunteer involvement.

Provide medical and dental services for "non citizen" children in foster care/ temporary relative placement that do not qualify for Medicaid or All Kids. Additionally, orthodontic benefits are not available for children who do qualify for Medicaid or All Kids

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continue to research information concerning medical and dental resources that will meet the needs of this population.
- ☐ Solicit expansion of Medicaid/All Kids services.
- ☐ Pursue additional funding through grant writing.

Secure additional drug rehabilitation programs for youth and expand state's court referral for this purpose

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ State should establish and publicize a plan to prevent teen substance abuse and increase number of court referral offices and use contracts beds with local private drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities.

- ☐ Establish a satellite Quest program in Limestone County.
- ☐ State should expand Department of Mental Health and Retardation to include drug and alcohol rehabilitation services to be provided at local mental health centers.
- ☐ Apply for grants to support the above pursuits.

Measures:

- ☐ **Baseline:** Children in poverty 16.2%.
Goal: 0%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Vulnerable families 14.7%.
Goal: 0%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Increase number of children in Summer Day Camp.
Goal: Increase number of children from 50 to 150.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Release Children's First monies; MH5.
- ☐ Increase funding for mental health treatment for the working poor; MH9-funding.
- ☐ DCA should let local councils know about availability of grants for mental health; YD10.

SAFETY

Establish a small therapeutic foster home for CHINS, dependent and multiple needs adolescents

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Interagency visit with similar homes in the state.
- ☐ Canvas community for housing opportunities.
- ☐ Develop guidelines for services.

Develop a mentoring/tutoring program for children perceived at-risk, in alternative schools on probation with the Juvenile Probation Office

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Visit other similar programs.
- ☐ Enlist community volunteers to include retired teachers and college students.
- ☐ Coordinate with Boys and Girls Club Mentoring programs.

Establish an emergency temporary shelter/assessment home in our county for temporary placement of children in order to determine an appropriate initial placement or to house CHINS until an initial placement could be secured

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Visit other emergency shelter/assessment homes and inquire as to their development.
- ☐ Formulate a plan establishing the home.
- ☐ Pursue funding through grants.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Children with indication of abuse or neglect..
- Goal:** 9.2% to 0%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Preventable teen death rate.
- Goal:** 69.6% to 100%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Vulnerable families.
- Goal:** 14.7% to 0%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Release DYS Children's First funds for education; YD6.
- ☐ Increase state funding to agencies; AD7.
- ☐ State DCA should let local councils know about availability of grants for programs of this nature; YD10.

EDUCATION

Continue the Limestone County Youth Services Unit which includes School Resource Officers, truancy/drop out programs and accountability for juveniles on probation

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continue to seek funding.
- ☐ Fine tune standard operating procedures.
- ☐ Identify truancy issues early in the school year.
- ☐ Include Athens City Schools.

Combine city and county alternative schools so that

more services could be accessed and separate age groups

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create subcommittee to discuss feasibility.
- ☐ Visit other county's centralized programs.
- ☐ Identify programs that could be offered-anger management, drug prevention, tutoring resources.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Projected drop out rate.
- Goal:** 23.17 to 0%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Event drop-out rate.
- Goal:** 6.4% to 0%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Juvenile substance abuse arrest rate.
- Goal:** 707.1% to 0%

State Programs and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Release Children's First Funding; AD7.
- ☐ Increase education funding; YD6.
- ☐ Coordination between DCA and local CPC's as to grant and resource availability; AD1.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Work Force Investment Act program should be continued and expanded to include all youth regardless of their income

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ All members should refer eligible youths to program.
- ☐ Program should be better publicized by members.
- ☐ Members should let congressmen know how helpful program is.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Vulnerable families.
- Goal:** 14.7% to 0%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Children receiving AFDC/TANF.
- Goal:** 1% to 0%
- ☐ **Baseline:** Children in poverty.
- Goal:** .09% to 0%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Get state support to Workforce Investment Act; ED3.

- ☐Funding for transportation to programs; FD12.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Provide child care facilities for indigent or low income working parents

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Coordinate child care facilities with Pre Kindergarten programs.
- ☐Canvas area for resources.
- ☐Seek community support and volunteers.

Develop a Family Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Establish a subcommittee with various agencies.
- ☐Visit family resource centers in other areas.
- ☐Coordinate family resource center with child care facility in Issue 1.
- ☐Secure satellite services in alcohol and drug treatment, visitation supervision program, anger management classes and other programs.

Measures

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| ☐ Baseline: | First grade retention. |
| Goal: | 9.2% to 0% |
| ☐ Baseline: | Children with indications of abuse or neglect. |
| Goal: | 16.2% to 0% |
| ☐ Baseline: | Children in poverty. |
| Goal: | 20% to 0% |

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Increase funding by the State; FD3.
- ☐DCA develops outlines or plans for family resource centers; CD4.
- ☐DCA coordinates with local CDCS as grant and funding opportunities; CD5.

Lowndes County

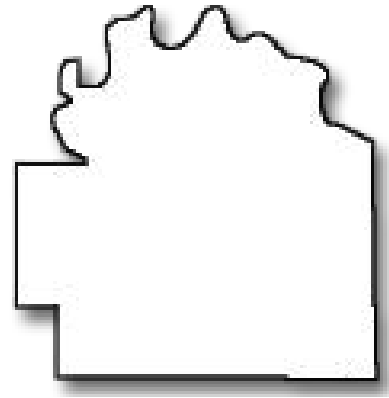
Lowndes County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Terri Bozeman, District Court Judge

John Andrews
James Collins
Dr. J. Wm.
Covington
Fletcher Fountain
Marvin Hart
Eartha Henry

John E. Hulett
Richard Ingalls
Charlie King
Arthur Nelson
Faye Nelson
Kathy Nichols
Ron Pugh

Hank Sanders
Mary Smith
Carolyn Taylor
James Thomas
Willie Vaughner
John Wall



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve the lives of Lowndes children by strengthening families

- ☐ Spearhead the effort to start a Family Resource Center

The children of Lowndes County will have access to programs that meet their educational, physical, mental, and emotional needs

- ☐ Network with state, regional and local agencies and leading non-profit organizations in the River Region to assure existing programs are sustained and improved and new efforts are started so that the pressing social and physical needs of Lowndes County children and families are not ignored. Network with other Children's Policy

Councils to strengthen this vitally needed DCA program. Seek DCA's guidance on how to best carry out the LCCPC mission to identify needs, resources and the availability of services to effectively address problems to enrich the lives of Lowndes children and families.

All students of Lowndes County will graduate from high school with the skills needed to pursue post-secondary education or competitive employment

- ☐ Support programs that improve the physical and mental health of Lowndes students and seek ways to help their families. Support the goals of the Workforce Investment Act through carrying out community-based activities.

HEALTH

Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support "Can We Talk" Pregnancy Prevention Program in the Lowndes County school system.
- ☐ Collaborate with the Community Care Network to host the 2nd Annual Lowndes County Health Fair.
- ☐ Encourage and support the "Baby Think it Over" program in the school system.
- ☐ Sponsor a Back to School STD Awareness Rally.
- ☐ Sponsor a public service campaign through the Alabama Program to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- ☐ Network with organizations including the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, the Montgomery Area Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Gift of Life.

Infant Mortality and Pre-natal Care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Form partnerships with existing agencies such as Gift of Life, to help pregnant teens to get adequate follow up care.
- ☐ Educate parents on Reducing Crib Death/SIDS.
- ☐ Collaborate with agencies and groups to promote existing programs and to find programs that will improve the lives of Lowndes families.
- ☐ Distribute posters to all schools and agencies to promote awareness and contact information for counseling or designated subjects.
- ☐ Plan a Children's Policy Council meeting devoted to the topic of pre-natal care.

Teaching Healthy Habits to the Children of Lowndes County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support existing programs that educate how to prevent obesity of children including the efforts of the Lowndes County Public School System, the County Extension Service and the public health program organized by Mr. Paul Hayes.

☐Support a program for children to maintain good health through helping to establish a reward system, and promote self esteem and self confidence through networking with organizations like the Boys and Girls Club of Hayneville.

☐Organize a Parent/Child Health Fair or workshop on relevant topics such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma and anger management.

☐Promote the use of the Girls Circle/Wise Guy Training.

☐Participate in the River Region Promise (America's Promise) and Envision 20/20 efforts.

Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Find ways to inform children and families about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

☐Provide referral information on how to get help for children who are using drugs or alcohol.

☐Encourage community work shops about substance abuse.

Dental Care and Health Care Screenings

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Encourage and support efforts for each Lowndes child to have adequate dental treatment.

☐Distribute an updated list of area dentists who accept Medicaid and other insurance.

☐Continue collaborations with Dr. Stuart Lockwood and the Alabama Department of Public Health to locate a dentist who will provide services in Lowndes County.

☐Invite dentists to participate in health fair sponsored by the LCCPC.

☐Invite a local doctor/ dentist to serve on the policy council.

☐Encourage organizations like the Alabama Lion's Club and the Community Care Network to do screenings in Lowndes.

Anger Management

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Continue efforts to seek funds for a mental health officer to work full-time in the school system.

☐Develop a subcommittee to work with children's issues including special education and mental health needs.

☐Support efforts of the Juvenile Court, Boys and Girls Club, and the Family Sunshine Center to continue violence intervention programs.

☐Encourage and support existing programs including conflict resolution and peer mediation.

Measures

☐**Baseline:** Fifty-seven births to unmarried teens according to the 2002 Kid's Count.

☐**Goal:** Lower instances of births to unmarried teens by 15%.

☐**Baseline:** Twenty-nine low birth rate babies born according to the 2002 Kid's Count.

☐**Goal:** Reduce instances of low birth rates by 15%.

☐**Baseline:** No dentist currently working in LowndesCounty.

☐**Goal:** Ensure that 100% of the child population has access to a dentist.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐Parent involvement and participation; AD3.

☐Information Distribution; CD6.

☐Pregnancy Prevention Programs; FD8.

☐Alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention/ intervention programs; MH1.

☐Family and individual counseling; MH4, MH6.

☐Information Distribution: health fair, resource directory; PH8.

☐Dental Care; PH2.

SAFETY

Violence in school and community

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Work with the Lowndes County Board of Education, public agencies and organizations to develop an anti-violence program.

☐Work with the Board of Education, public agencies and organizations to identify the causes of violence and seek grant funds to initiate programs to help solve problems.

☐Network with organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of Hayneville and the Lowndes Ministerial Alliance to sponsor a back to school rally and other activities with an anti-violence theme.

☐Recruit businesses and churches to become Safe Places.

☐Encourage school and community character education efforts.

☐Arrange for organizations like the Family Guidance Center, the Family Sunshine Center, the Council on Substance Abuse, and the National Guard, B.O.N.D.S. and Crime Stoppers to speak to community groups on safety and anti-drug issues.

☐Research ways to get resources to start after school programs in communities throughout the county.

☐Organize Law Day activities during the spring.

Parental Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote the starting of The Parent Project.
- ☐ Encourage PTA participation and parent involvement in education.
- ☐ Assist in communicating the message that parents are to be held responsible for their children's actions.
- ☐ Support the Fatherhood Program and help identify more fathers who need to participate in the program.
- ☐ Recruit parents to serve as volunteers in the schools to start a "Parents Against Violence Program".

Measures

Baseline: Violent crime court referral rate of 10 according to the 2002 Kid's Count.

Goal: Reduce referral rate by 20%.

Baseline: 16 students from Calhoun High School and 40 students from Central High School were referred to the juvenile court by way of petition or complaint during the 2002-2003 school year. Juvenile Court Statistics.

Goal: Reduce referral rate by 20%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Parent involvement and participation; AD3.
- ☐ Student support/assistance; AD4.
- ☐ Family violence prevention/intervention; FD2.
- ☐ Recreation programs; FD10.
- ☐ Alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention/intervention; MH1.
- ☐ Crisis intervention; MH3.
- ☐ After school programs; YD1.
- ☐ Delinquency prevention and intervention programs; YD3.
- ☐ Mentoring programs; YD6.

EDUCATION

Funding

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Be supportive of efforts to improve education in Lowndes County.
- ☐ Support school funding issues.

School Climate, Graduation Rates and Dropout Rates

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support mentoring and peer mediation programs.
- ☐ Support school based character education programs.
- ☐ Organize programs to improve teachers' morale including the Star Teacher Recognition program that was started in the spring of 2003.
- ☐ Support reading programs by having LCCPC members encourage and participation in literacy programs, summer reading programs, and after-school tutoring.
- ☐ Encourage efforts to have more students participate in the arts.

Truancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assist the Board of Education and the Juvenile Court in improving the Early Warning Program.
- ☐ Continue to seek funding options to employ a truancy officer
- ☐ Support holistic approaches towards helping youth.

Measures

Baseline: Average score of 15.7 on ACT for seniors in Lowndes County.

Goal: Improve ACT scores to meet the state average of 20.3.

Baseline: Projected drop out rate of 11.8%- 2002 Kid's Count.

Goal: Reduce drop out numbers by 5%

Baseline: Total of 471 students suspended without services for 2001-2002 school term-Lowndes County Board of Education.

Goal: Reduce need for suspensions by 15%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Alternative school programs; AD1.
- ☐ Student support/assistance; AD4.
- ☐ Summer academic programs; AD5.
- ☐ Truancy prevention/intervention; AD6.
- ☐ Tutoring/academic counseling; AD8.
- ☐ Early childhood education; CD3.
- ☐ After school programs; YD1.
- ☐ Mentoring programs; YD6.
- ☐ Parent Involvement and participation; YD7.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Job Skills/Adult Literacy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support the improving of adult literacy programs in Lowndes County.

- ☐ Partner with communities to establish GED training and other classes to strengthen families.
- ☐ Encourage classes to help families become more financially secure.
- ☐ Support Workforce Investment Act goals.
- ☐ Support Distance Learning efforts in Lowndes County.

Economic Development/ Infrastructure

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Coordinate the effort to develop a strategic plan for the next three to five years.
- ☐ Network with county organizations and agencies to present a positive Lowndes image through the Internet and other channels of communication.
- ☐ Participate in Chamber of Commerce and Envision 20/20 activities.
- ☐ Form an advisory committee of leaders to advise on fundraising.
- ☐ Seek match resources for grants and apply for economic development type grants.
- ☐ Ask Industrial Development Board and Chamber members to serve on the LCCPC.
- ☐ Research ways to hire professional staff to assist in the administering of major grants.
- ☐ Research ways to collaborate on the sponsorship of a Lowndes County Homecoming.
- ☐ Publish a resource directory to be distributed throughout the County.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Children in poverty 1,667 per 2002 Kid's Count Book.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce number of children in poverty by 10%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Unemployment rate set at 11.2% -U.S. Labor Statistics and Real Estate Center at Texas A & M.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce unemployment rates to 8%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** 2000 statistics from US Census show that 3,935 persons in Lowndes County over the age of 25 have a high school diploma.
- ☐ **Goal:** Improve number of high school graduates by 15% over the next 5 years.
- ☐ **Baseline:** 270 children receiving AFDC/TANF - 2002 Kid's County.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce number of children receiving benefits by 20%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Adult literacy programs; ED1.
- ☐ Job training; ED7.
- ☐ Job placement/support; ED8.
- ☐ Transportation for employment; OS2.

- ☐ Community Education/Awareness; OS4.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Age 0-3 Program

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support Head Start and early childcare non-profit program efforts to seek grant funding.
- ☐ Collaborate with the Health Committee to meet medical needs of at-risk children between the ages of 0-3.

Training and Education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assist in efforts to sustain and improve pre-school community based not-for-profit programs i.e. Success by 6.
- ☐ Support Head Start efforts to serve the needs of families with children ages 0-3.
- ☐ Encourage LCCPC members to visit and participate in day care activities.
- ☐ Collaborate in an effort to find ways to develop a recreational area for families with pre-school children that can be used for quality family activities.
- ☐ Support the Start with the Arts initiative at Head Start and at Success by 6.
- ☐ Support pre-school literacy efforts at Head Start and in the community.
- ☐ Find ways to get resources donated for community and public education needs.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** First grade retention rates were 10.7% - 2002 Kid's Count.
- ☐ **Goal:** First grade retention rates improve to 10%

State Programs and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Early intervention; CD2.
- ☐ Early childhood education; CD3.
- ☐ Information distribution; AD2.
- ☐ Hire/retain quality teachers; AD9.

Macon County

Macon County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Aubrey Ford, Jr., District Court Judge

Febrear Holstead

Don Schofield

Jonathan Davis

Clima White

Harvey Maxwell

Kenneth Gibbs

Rep. Johnny L. Ford

Sen. George Clay

Jesse Upshaw

David Warren

John Pulliam

William Carson

Lula Bridges

Kate LaFayette

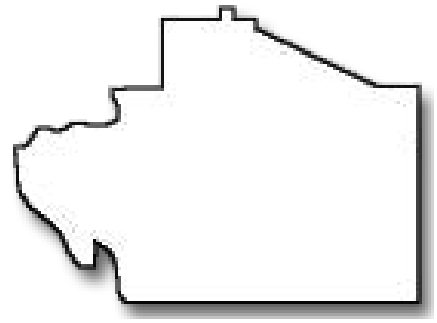
Melvin Clark

Brenda Owens

Paula Crawford

James Martin

MeaPearl Clark



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Truancy

- ☐ Re-instate Early Warning Intervention Program.
- ☐ Upgrade and expand alternative and adult education programs.

Economic Security

- ☐ Create better education and employment opportunities

- ☐ Creation of a "work base" education to prepare students for work in proposed automobile plant.

Drug Eradication

- ☐ Establish resident drug treatment facilities for adults and children.

HEALTH

Births to unwed Teen Mothers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Teen pregnancy prevention activities.
- ☐ Social workers in schools.
- ☐ Health Fair and Public Service Campaign.

Pre-Natal Care and Low Birth Weight Babies

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Parenting classes and living skills education.
- ☐ Countywide Health Screenings.
- ☐ Distribution of Health Information.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** 22.2%- Kid's Count
- Goal:** 18%
- ☐ **Baseline:** 15.6%- Kid's Count
- Goal:** 10%

State Program and Policy Recommendations:

- ☐ PH6
- ☐ FD3
- ☐ FD8

SAFETY

Juvenile Violent Crime

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Education About Issue for Parents and Children.
- ☐ Develop More Recreational Activities.
- ☐ Develop Peer Mediation In Schools.

Drugs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Educational Programs for Children-DARE program.
- ☐ Mentoring Program.
- ☐ Scared Straight Program- Jail Visitations.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** 32.2%-Kid's Count
- Goal:** 20%
- ☐ **Baseline:** 24.5%- Kid's Count
- Goal:** 10%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ YD1
- ☐ YD11
- ☐ FD1

EDUCATION

Truancy Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage Board of Education to hire and maintain sufficient staff to address this issue.
- ☐ Improve Alternative Education Program.
- ☐ Re-establish the Early Intervention Truancy Prevention Program.

Character Education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish parenting programs.
- ☐ Encourage school board to collaborate with Head Start.
- ☐ Develop skills development programs.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Dropout rate increased slightly.
- Goal:** To insure that 85% of all ninth graders graduate and receive a diploma in four (4) years.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Truancy rate is unacceptably high.
- Goal:** Decrease rate by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ AD1
- ☐ AD6
- ☐ AD7, ADB

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Create Opportunities for Families to live above poverty level

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create better employment and educational opportunities.
- ☐ Advocate for local and different employment opportunities.
- ☐ Encourage enrollment and access to early intervention and early education programs for students.

Look for Governmental Collaboration Efforts to Sustain Action Steps

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage local governments to keep and enhance services at V.A. Medical Center, Tuskegee University and existing community agencies.
- ☐ Encourage a positive public relations campaign for Macon County.
- ☐ Research and promote public entrepreneurship, entertainment and tourism opportunities.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** According to Kid's Count, Macon County has one of the highest rates of poverty in the state.
- Goal:** Decrease the number of children in poverty by 2%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** According to Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Macon County has an unemployment rate of 6%.
- Goal:** Decrease the unemployment rate an additional 1%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ ED1
- Explanation: Adult education.*
- ☐ ED9
- Explanation: Job Training and Placement.*

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Establish an Early Childhood Education Facility

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage school board to collaborate with Head Start.
- ☐ Secure funding for an appropriate facility.
- ☐ Establish skills development program.

Need for more participation in Head Start

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Make sure eligible families get enrollment information.
- ☐ Intervene at time of pregnancy to identify qualified participants.
- ☐ Follow up with "Head Start" graduates.

Measures

☐ **Baseline:**

Goal: Increase the number of affordable childcare facilities.

☐ **Baseline:**

Goal: Increase enrollment in Head Start by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ CD1

Explanation: Better care management.

☐ CD3

Explanation: Early Childhood education opportunities.

☐ CD7

Explanation: Establish more affordable daycare facilities.

Madison County

Madison County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Susan T. Moquin, District Court Judge

Anita Humphrey

Barbara Owens

Connie Carnes

Curtis Summerville

David Taylor

Debby Traugher

Dr. Gary Porier

Dr. Lawrence Roby

Dr. Mary Ruth Yates

Dr. Prince Preyer

Gary Webb

Hon. Tim Morgan

Hon. Karen K. Hall

Hon. M. Lynn Sherrod

Hon. Susan T Moquin

Kathy Wells

Nancy Kramer

Ray Swaim

Rep. Albert Hall

Rep. Angelo Mancuso

Rep. Howard Sanderford

Rep. Jim Haney

Rep. Laura Hall

Rep. Patrick Jones

Rep. Sue Schmitz

Robert Matthews

Sen. Jeff Enfinger

Sen. Lowell Barron

Sen. Tom Butler

Sen. Zeb Little

Sheriff Joe Whisante

Susan Smith



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All parents, teens and children will have access to a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program

☐ The need for these services must be adequately addressed across the county and the state. Services must be comprehensive, family-based, and of long enough duration to effect change.

All parents, teens and children will have access to comprehensive health services, to include mental and physical health

needs

☐ These critical services must be made available on an accessible and affordable basis. Continued failure to adequately address these issues will cost the state substantially.

Adequate funding for social services programming

☐ Essential services must be adequately funded in this state if we are to move forward. The state must develop and implement a plan to meet these needs.

HEALTH

Lack of affordable, available mental health services for children (to include substance abuse services)

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Complete an assessment of local child and adolescent mental health services in order to identify the gaps and begin efforts to recruit providers or develop programs to fill those gaps, i.e., child psychiatrist, intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment.

☐ Support local initiatives to reduce child and adolescent demand and access to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, i.e., school-based programs, ABC enforcement, Partnership for a Drug-Free Community.

Rates for infant mortality and low-birth weight are too high

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Identify the factors that contribute to low birth weight and infant mortality in the local area.

☐ Identify high-risk groups and seek to have local programs target them for outreach in order to make them aware of available programs to prevent these problems.

Public health funding has been significantly cut, thereby reducing availability of services

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Involve public health officials more actively in the local Children's Policy Council.

☐ Educate Policy Council members on current status of public health funding in the county.

Measures

☐ Available child and adolescent mental health services.

Baseline: Not available.

Goal: Comprehensive listing of all available locally.

- ☐ Local infant mortality rate.
Baseline: 7.3 per 1000
Goal: 5.0 per 1000
- ☐ Local low birth weight rate.
Baseline: 6.5 per 1000
Goal: 6.0 per 1000

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Expand funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment.
Explanation: There are not adequate resources in these areas.
- ☐ The state should conduct a public education campaign to combat infant death and low birth weight.
Explanation: Public education campaigns can be waged much more effectively on widespread basis on a more cost-effective basis.
- ☐ Expand funding for adequate staffing of state/other employees in the field to better accommodate child care medical needs through proficient and timely application processing of available Medicaid programs and DHR Child Support Programs.
Explanation: There are not adequate resources for field staff funding.

SAFETY

Child death rate for ages 1-14 is too high

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The local Policy Council will ask the Child Death Review Team to present a briefing for its membership on causes of unexpected death.
- ☐ Target the preventable causes through a public education program.
- ☐ Support local initiatives to increase the use of child safety restraints, including legal requirements, education about injury prevention and training on installation.

Family violence rate needs improvement

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support local family violence education programs for parents and children and seek to ensure that they include information on substance abuse, domestic violence, anger management and child abuse.
- ☐ Check into the availability of school-based bullying program in grades K-8 and support current efforts.
- ☐ Work with local groups to revitalize the Domestic Violence Coalition.

Measures

- ☐ Local child death ages 1-14 per 100,000.
Baseline: 30.1
Goal: 25.0
- ☐ Child physical abuse.
Baseline: 603 or 10.1 per 1000
Goal: 6.5 per 1000

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ The state should engage in campaigns to educate the public about the prevention of child deaths.
Explanation: Public education campaigns can be waged much more effectively on widespread basis on a more cost-effective basis.
- ☐ The State Department of Education should develop a bullying program and a marriage/family curriculum that will be made available to the local districts.
Explanation: School-based programs on these two subjects could ensure that the information is widely available to school-age children across the state.
- ☐ Monies should be made available to implement the Madison County Family Court.
Explanation: Positive implementation of a true Family Court can effect family violence education funding in its issues.

EDUCATION

Too many students are dropping out of school and not graduating from high school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek to expand alternative learning opportunities such as technical education, non-traditional classroom alternative programs and school/work coop programs.
- ☐ Implement full-service schools to include summer programs, after-school services and parenting programs.
- ☐ Encourage schools to accent reading, sports, extra-curricular activities to help generate interest in staying in school.

Lack of non-traditional programs specifically geared to special needs populations, such as those with mental health issues

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support initiatives, such as the Circle Project, to place social workers, mental health staff and other service providers in the school program.

☐ Work with local providers to create additional slots in the existing programs.

Measures

☐ Projected drop-out rate.

Baseline: 23.9

Goal: 8.0

☐ Graduation rate.

Baseline: 65.5% average of three school systems in 1998.

Goal: 80.5% average of three school systems in 2004.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Provide additional funding for the expansion of alternative education programs that are not targeted just for delinquent youth.

Explanation: Not all students respond to traditional classroom instruction. Alternative school programs should not be only for behavioral problems. These programs should include flex scheduling, technical/career education, and other non-traditional methods of instruction.

☐ Student retention programs should be encouraged.

Explanation: School attendance offices should be staffed adequately to ensure that efforts are made to retain all students, especially those in danger of dropping out. Outreach to those students who have recently quit school should be a priority.

☐ Social workers into the schools from DHR to address family issues, i.e. the Circle Project.

Explanation: The lack of funding, problems with confidentiality, etc. with DHR must be addressed by state DHR. This is as perceived by even local DHR.

☐ Funding needs are occurring daily in prevention services, such as the Gang Intervention and Violence Education Program (G.I.V.E.).

Explanation: Prevention funds are dwindling as the emphasis has switched to accountability for juveniles.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Too many parents are underemployed

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Review the existing TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) guidelines and make recommendations regarding the establishment of a more gradual schedule for withdrawal of benefits

☐ Support available job training and job retention programs in the county.

The divorce rate in Huntsville/Madison County is high

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Investigate the possibility of re-introducing marriage and family education and pregnancy prevention classes into the high school curricula.

☐ Make information regarding alternatives to divorce available prior to initiation of divorce proceedings.

Measures

☐ Rate of underemployment.

Baseline: 18.9% of total employed population (52,000 people).

Goal: 18.0% of total employed population

☐ Divorce rate.

Baseline: 5.5 per 1000 of population in 1999.

Goal: 5 per 1000 of population.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Continue and expand current job training programs.

Explanation: Increasing the skill level of TANF recipients will help them to obtain better paying jobs with improved benefits.

☐ Increase funding availability for family counseling programs.

Explanation: Increasing the availability of family support programs could help keep parents from getting to the point of divorce.

☐ The state should promote best practices statewide

Explanation: Local areas may not be aware of successful programs elsewhere that target issues of concern. Best practices training can spread those good ideas to all parts of the state.

☐ Give daycare funding the highest funding priority.

Explanation: Lack of daycare availability prevents some parents from working a full-time job.

EARLY CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

Poor linkage among school readiness providers

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Improve linkage and communication between Head Start programs and Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Testing (EPSDT) providers.

☐ Develop and provide training to local child care workers on child development and behavior management.

Lack of parent knowledge about child development and behavior management

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Develop, administer and analyze survey of parents.
- ❑ Develop plan coordinating initiatives to disseminate information most effectively.

Inadequate availability of affordable childcare that meets minimum standards

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Assess availability of childcare slots to determine if there are an adequate number.
- ❑ Develop and provide training to local childcare workers on child development and behavior management.

Measures

- ❑ Range of development at age 5.
Baseline: 15% are at one standard deviation below the normal range of development by age 5.
Goal: 14.5%
- ❑ Parent knowledge of child development and behavior management.
Baseline: Not available.
Goal: To be developed following survey.
- ❑ Number of childcare slots available to low-income families.
Baseline: Not available.
Goal: Accurate count of available slots for low-income families.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Give daycare funding the highest funding priority.
Explanation: Lack of daycare availability prevents some parents from working a full-time job.

Marengo County

Marengo Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. Wade Drinkard, District Court Judge

Rose Johnson
Barbara McMillian
Dewayne Beesley
Clinton Stanton
Dennis Mixon
Jim Brooks
Tommy Chapman
Jimmy Warren

Otha Lee Biggs
Sheriff Tom Tate
Kay Lett
John Wright
Dr. John Grider
Laura Grantham
Bob McMillan
Phil Sanchez

Donna Wasden
James Prevo
Deputy Bruce Shue
Prissy Manning
Deidre Munnerlyn
Benita Perry
Jeanne Sewell
Ywell Cunningham



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Substance Abuse

- ☐ Provide funds or secure grants for high risk youth.

Literacy

- ☐ Identify grants and state assistance in administering grants.

Practical Life Skills

- ☐ Identify grants to address this issue.

HEALTH

Teen Pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Apply for grant through CTF for Nurse Family Partnership.
- ☐ Work with health department on abstinence program for schools.

Access to Health Care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Grant through Delta Regional Council for clinic in South Marengo County.
- ☐ Sponsor a Health Fair with all health care agencies.
- ☐ Work with Mobile Health Care teams.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Kids Count
- Goal:** Reduce by 20%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Vital Stats from Health Department.
- Goal:** Secure all health care agencies participation in rural clinic.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Form active committee for health care.

SAFETY

Abuse/Neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Coordination of community response.
 - a. identify appropriate agencies.
 - b. memo of understanding.
- ☐ Education and training of agencies that come into contact with at-risk children.

Juvenile Crime Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Utilize Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Utilize Alternative School Program.
- ☐ Identify high risk children.
- ☐ Expand Pride in Parenting Program.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Refer to Kids Count for number of reported cases of abuse/neglect.
- Goal:** Increase number of reported cases.
Decrease number of indicated cases.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Utilize Kids Count.
- Goal:** Reduce crime rate by 45%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide funds for high risk youth; MH1.

EDUCATION

Literacy (children and adults)

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Improve parenting skills.
- ☐ Expand local GED program.
- ☐ Implement the Success by Six Program.

Practical Life Skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Partner with schools, GED program and WIA program.
- ☐ Expand existing school curriculum (after school programs).
- ☐ Literacy campaign within Marengo County.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Develop a pre and post test.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce literacy rate by 10%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Identify funding sources.
- ☐ State assistance with literacy programs.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Parental Employment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ County wide Industrial Committee active in industry recruitment programs.
- ☐ Support and encourage expansion of current industries.
- ☐ Provide pre job training, job readiness training, promote skills training and remedial education assistance.
- ☐ Employment workshop through unemployment service.

Children Receiving AFDC/TANF

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ County wide Industrial Committee active in industry recruitment.

- ☐ Monitor and encourage greater enforcement of child support collections.
- ☐ Promote need for education and skills training.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Kids Count
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce AFDC/TANF by 25%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Child Support Court Records.
- ☐ **Goal:** Increase child support collections by 20%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Job seeking preparation-need program similar to DHR's program.
- ☐ Unemployment workshop.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Literacy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Educate parents about public, private and faith based programs.
- ☐ Identify physical, emotional or psychological needs rather than hinder learning of children 0-5.

Retention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish Pre-K readiness programs.
- ☐ Expansion of existing Pre-K readiness programs.
- ☐ Explore faith based initiative for Pre-K.

Measures

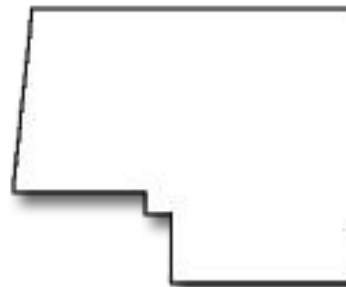
- ☐ **Baseline:** First Grade retention rate from Kids Count Manual.
- ☐ **Goal:** Improve pass/fail rate of early elementary.

Marion County

Marion County Children's Policy Council Members

Hon. James C. Cashion, District Court Judge

Judy Young	Don Barnwell	Hon. Roger Bedford
Woodfin Gregg	Sheriff Bud Purser	Lisa Murphy
Robert Matthers	Dale Brasher	Linda Vest
Randall Pickering	Evelyn Walker	Jennifer Nix
Katherine Mayo	Judy Lawler	Marty Sanderson
Mark Jarrett	Hon. Ken Millican	Barbara Williams
Donny Winters	Ann West	Cathy Glass
Bravell Jackson	Laura Mann	Andrea Kell
Ann Couch	Jane Raines	Patsy Lolley
Jack Bostick	Shelia Perry	
Hon. Mike Millican	Arvy Dupuy	



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All Children in Marion County will be free from drug and alcohol abuse

☐ To start/sponsor prevention programs for K thru 12; develop local treatment programs, concentrate of enforcement issues.

All children in Marion County will have affordable transportation to available services

☐ To provide affordable transportation for disadvantaged people, as well as for at-risk children.

All children in Marion County will have access to a social worker/therapist in the school system

☐ To provide therapists or social workers to schedule regular sessions in school to work with at-risk students individually and/or small groups.

HEALTH

- d. All-Kids
- e. Today's Mom Class

Teen smoking

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide information and education on health issues of smoking.
- ☐ Offer smoking cessation programs/workshops.
- ☐ Offer support system.

Low birth weight

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Sponsor pregnancy prevention program for grades 6-12.
- ☐ Investigate how many maternities receive prenatal care and education.
- ☐ Referral to community resources:
 - a. Family Planning Services
 - b. WIC
 - c. SOBRA

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** No or minimal program in area.
- Goal:** Smoke free lifestyles.
- ☐ Low Birth Rates.
- Baseline:** 7.9% (Alabama Kids Count 2002).
- Goal:** 6.7%
- ☐ Births to unmarried teens.
- Baseline:** 15.1% (2001 Statistics)
- Goal:** 14%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Smoking Program; PH10.
Explanation: Prevention & Cessation.
- ☐ Funding for Pregnancy Prevention; FD8.
Explanation: Postponing Sexual Involvement.

SAFETY

Drug and alcohol abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Start/Sponsor Prevention Programs for K-12.
- ☐ Develop local treatment Programs.
- ☐ Concentrate on enforcement issues.

Juvenile law enforcement/training

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Special training for officers in juvenile procedures.
- ☐ Law enforcement working with school officials on increased school interdiction and security.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Juvenile Substance Abuse Court referral rate - Alabama Kids Count 2002.
- ☐ **Goal:** Drug Free lifestyles.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Juvenile Court Statistics.
- ☐ **Goal:** Delinquency prevention/intervention.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Drug/Alcohol Programs; MH1.
Explanation: Prevention, Treatment & Enforcement.
- ☐ Law Enforcement Training; YD3.
Explanation: Training for Law Enforcement on Juvenile Procedures.

EDUCATION

Provide certified therapist in school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Secure funding for certified therapists.
- ☐ Collaborate & coordinate with existing agencies.
- ☐ Develop needs assessments & programs for individual schools.
- ☐ Develop referral system.

Provide affordable transportation countywide

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Secure funding for public transportation.

- ☐ Collaborate & coordinate with existing agencies with an operating transportation system.

Prepare students to enter the world of work

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Secure funding for student workshops/activities.
- ☐ Design workshops/activities that prepare potential employees to seek, train for and maintain productive employment.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** No transportation available for at-risk children.
- ☐ **Goal:** Affordable transportation for at-risk children to attend such activities as: Summer school, extra-curricular activities, jobs, counseling sessions.
- ☐ **Baseline:** No therapists currently available to work in school w/ at-risk children.
- ☐ **Goal:** Provide in-school therapists to work w/ at-risk children.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Projected drop out rate - Alabama Kids Count 2002.
- ☐ **Goal:** Reduce this rate to 15%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Individual Counseling; MH6.
Explanation: Full time therapists in the schools
- ☐ Public Transportation; OS2.
Explanation: Providing transportation for at-risk children.
- ☐ Job Training/placement; ED7.
Explanation: Providing job training & placements for at-risk children.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Increase availability of job training/placement

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide information & resources for job availability.
- ☐ Collaborate w/ job training & education sites to implement programs.
- ☐ Build on existing services providers, i.e. Alabama Career Center System for career preparation, skill training and labor market information.

Increase the availability of child care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase child care resources on the job site.
- ☐ Pursue funding to assist in meeting standards for opening day care centers.
- ☐ Collaborate with childcare management agencies in developing resources.

Measures

- ☐ Children in Poverty.

Baseline: 18.8% - Alabama Kids Count 2002

Goal: 16.5%

- ☐ Vulnerable Families.

Baseline: 9.2% - Alabama Kids Count 2002

Goal: 7.0%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Job Training/career planning; EO7-9.

Explanation: Providing jobs & training.

- ☐ Develop startup funding for child care centers; EO3.

Explanation: Funding for developing more day care.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Lack of Early Childhood Education Programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Investigate funding resources to expand/add programs.
- ☐ Make pre-kindergarten available.

Lack of available and affordable child care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Secure funding to expand existing subsidized programs.
- ☐ Provide financial support to families in need of child care.

Measures

- ☐ 1st Grade Retention.

Baseline: 7.3% - Alabama Kids Count 2002

Goal: 6%

- ☐ Single Parent families w/ children.

Baseline: 24.1% - Alabama Kids Count 2002

Goal: 20%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide Early Care & Education for the children; CD3.

Explanation: More Head Start Programs.

- ☐ Provide Affordable Child Care; CD4.

Explanation: Fund subsidies for child care.

Marshall County

Marshall County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Howard G. Hawk, District Court Judge

Janice Jones Bailey
Rev. John Carlisto
Justin Ehman
Pamela Hornsby
Dr. Keith Morgan Hon.
Christopher Pankey
Gene Ray
Jeannie Wallace
Deborah Seagraves
Steve Bearden
Rob Sparkman
Edwin Cooley

Shannon Cole
Katie Wilke
Leslie Marshall
Tim Walker
Dr. Rhonda Poling
Janice Creel
Robert Matthews
Andy Lee
Donna Johnson
Joan Noel
Annie Spike
Billy Cannon

Wayne Sellers
Hon. Steve Marshall
John Young
Cathy Huges
Hon. Frank McDaniel
Hon. Jeff McLaughlin
Hon. Hinton Mitchem
Mac Holcomb
Doug Wood
Martha Barnes
Karen McConnell



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Marshall County will provide more and better pre-kindergarten programs

□ The Children's Policy Council will support funding for quality pre-kindergarten programs based on criteria established by the Alabama Office of School Readiness. The Council will support childcare employment requirements in all childcare facilities based on No Child Left Behind. The Council will support regulation of such programs to ensure quality researched based curriculum. The Department of Children's Affairs needs to seek and approve funding for programs meeting the above criteria. Explanation: CD3 Early childhood education.

Marshall County will improve the success rate of at risk students and decrease the dropout rate

□ The Children's Policy Council will support the implementation of life skills training, including parenting programs, for middle school students. The Council will support the implementation of computer-aided instruction for at-risk students in grades K-12. The Council will

support the efforts of the educational systems to provide technical career information to schools for students. The Department of Children's Affairs needs to seek and approve funding for programs teaching life skills, parenting, and tutoring. Explanation: YD11 Life skills training, including parenting, for middle school students.

Marshall County will provide a mechanism to reunite families in a drug free environment

□ A collaborative effort will be developed among the Department of Human Resources, the court system, and treatment providers for the early identification of substance abusing parents. Agencies will assess the nature and extent of substance abuse problems of parents. Marshall County will implement a Dependency Drug Court to establish a process to return families to a drug free environment. The Department of Children's Affairs needs to make start-up funding available in order to implement a Dependency Drug Court. Explanation: MH9 Dependency Drug Court.

HEALTH

Improve the well-being of children found in drug trafficking, particularly crystal methamphetamine labs

Policy Council Action Steps

□ Establish medical protocol and seek funding to cover medical testing and treatment for children located in meth labs.

□ Seek alternative treatment and/or funding for treatment for low-income population.
□ Continue education for children on affects of drug use.

Increase resources for multi-care children

Policy Council Action Steps

□ Work to develop therapeutic foster care program in Marshall County.
□ Increase early recognition of need for multi-needs services.

- ☐ Identify existing resources for multi-needs children.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Written medical protocol in place and secured funding.
- ☐ **Goal:** Provide drug testing and blood work, as well as treatment when needed, for all children found at the site of crystal meth labs. (Current average is about 52 a year.)
- ☐ **Baseline:** Identify provider of Therapeutic Foster Care Services.
- ☐ **Goal:** Provider initiating process of recruiting for 5 therapeutic foster homes in Marshall County.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Address alternative crystal meth treatment for low-income families and funding state-wide for initial medical treatment for children not covered by Medicaid or other insurance.
- Explanation: This is rapidly becoming a state-wide issue and the treatment methods available are at times too costly or not effective possibly due to cognitive impairment.*

SAFETY

Provide Opportunities for Safe and Meaningful Visitation for Children at Risk of Abuse and Neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify children in need of supervised visitation.
- ☐ Extend existing services to include in-home supervised visitation for non-custodial parents.
- ☐ Develop strategy to eliminate factors contributing to abuse, neglect, or unsafe environments for children.

Provide Mechanism to Reunite Families in a Drug Free Environment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop collaborative effort among DHR, court system and treatment providers for the early identification of substance abusing parents.
- ☐ To assess nature and extent of substance abuse problem of parents.
- ☐ Implement Dependency Drug Court to establish process to return families to a drug free environment.

Measure:

- ☐ **Baseline:** Hours spent in supervised visitation program during a 12-month period.
- ☐ **Goal:** Supervise 1000 hours in a 12-month period.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Identify numbers of families to participate in Dependency Drug Court.
- ☐ **Goal:** Identify and supervise 50 families in Dependency Drug Court.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Expand funding for visitation centers for children.
- Explanation: Current visitation program is limited by lack of available funding. Additional funding is necessary to meet action steps referenced above.*
- ☐ Provide funding for Dependency Drug Courts.
- Explanation: Program must have start-up funding to be implemented.*

EDUCATION

Improve the success rate of at-risk students and decrease the drop-out rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Implement life skills training, including parenting, for middle school students.
- ☐ Implement computer-aided instruction for at-risk students K-12.
- ☐ Provide technical career information to schools for students.

Tutoring/academic counseling for grades K-12

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Find funding to pay teachers for tutoring before and after school hours two days each week.
- ☐ Provide before and after school tutoring for students at least two days each week.
- ☐ Distribute to parents each grading period a schedule of dates and times that tutoring sessions are available.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Increase the number of students exposed to life skills and technical career information in schools.
- ☐ **Goal:** Decrease the number of drop-outs.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Track the number of students utilizing the tutoring sessions.
- ☐ **Goal:** Increase the number of students using the services.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Marshall County will have adequate and flexible childcare

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assess the need for specific care needs including nighttime, weekend and Spanish speaking centers.
- ☐ Meet with current childcare providers and potential providers to determine interest in operating a nighttime, weekend, or Spanish speaking center.
- ☐ Apply for grant funding through local agencies/industry.

Marshall County will increase the number of jobs/job training for youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assess the availability of job positions by meeting with businesses.
- ☐ Develop contracts with businesses willing to provide job/job training for youth.
- ☐ Plan and schedule a Job-a-Thon.

Measures

- ☐ Number of nighttime, weekend, or Spanish speaking childcare providers in Marshall County.

Baseline: There are two nighttime childcare providers, but only one of them is licensed through the Department of Human Resources. There are no nighttime homes approved for childcare. There are no Spanish speaking daycares in the county.

Goal: Marshall County would have a minimum of 100 licensed nighttime, weekend spaces available. There would be a childcare center available for Spanish speaking children.

- ☐ Number of youth 16-21 able to obtain jobs through the employment office.

Baseline: From April 2002-April 2003, 2,014 persons between the ages of 16-21 applied for jobs at the employment office. Approximately 60% of them were able to find employment. The average is much lower for those under 18.

Goal: Provide all youth with appropriate job training/employment. Enroll those who have dropped out of school in a GED class.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ *Explanation: Provide funding for childcare centers meeting special needs.*
- ☐ *Explanation: Provide funding for programs to provide job training for youth.*

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Provide more and better pre-kindergarten programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support funding for quality pre-kindergarten programs based on criteria established by the Alabama Office of School Readiness.
- ☐ Support childcare employment requirements in all childcare facilities based on No Child Left Behind.
- ☐ Support regulation of such programs to ensure quality researched based curriculum.

Provide educational and enrichment programs for young parents

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Offer well planned, well organized classes and activities for parents of young children through coordinating activities with local industries and fine arts groups.
- ☐ Offer transportation to and from classes/meetings and childcare during classes/meetings.
- ☐ Express need for such programs to local and state officials.

Mobile County

Mobile County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. John F. Butler, Circuit Court Judge

Dana Blazich	Mary Zoghby	Capt. Phillip Garrett
Terri Bolin	Jeremy Blair	Rose Johnson
Monica Byrd	Marie Fain	Bob Martin
Chief Sam Brown	Virginia Guy	Lt. Corey Maske
Joli Chenoweth Zurfluh	Pat Guyton	Vandlyn Price
Marhsa Hobbs	Catherine Hanks	Angela Tanveer
Wendy McEarchern	Andrea Pennington	Venisha Taylor
Micah Miller	E.T. Rolison, Jr.	Lt. Chris Williams
John Weinacker	Manuel Russo	Luke Coley
Cassandra Burkes	Sheron Thames	Erica Jones
Marie King	Elizabeth Williams	Dan Peck
Kristi McClellan	Maria Williams	Denise Riemer
Lydia Pettijohn	Martha Bonham	Candy Snipes
Akareen Spears	Robin Brooks	Traci Wallace
Rhonda Waltman	Myra Burris	
Jennifer Weed	Dick Cashdollar	



HEALTH

Lack screening system for early identification of mental health problems - particularly serious emotional disturbance - in children 12 and younger and follow-up connection to appropriate services in Mobile County

Policy Council Action Steps

□ Document the problem of serious emotional disturbance among children 12 and under in Mobile County by collecting aggregate data from child care providers, DHR, DHR-service providers, SEAC (Special Education Action Center), Head Start, the City of Mobile's Family Intervention Team, the Mobile Mental Health Center, the Juvenile Court of Mobile County and other relevant agencies;

a. Work with the Mobile Mental Health Center and the University of South Alabama's Department of Psychology and/or Youth Violence Prevention Program to develop a survey-style data collection instrument for acquiring this aggregate data from agencies;

1) document SED need in two age categories: Pre K and 6-12 years of age.

□ Conduct a resource assessment to identify what services for seriously emotionally disturbed children currently exist in Mobile County to determine the gap between need and available resources; note current resources in both age categories; pre K and 6 - 12 years of age.

□ Explore viability of cross-systems implementation of a uniform screening tool for SED symptoms;

□ Work with Mobile Mental Health and other cross-systems partners to secure funding and develop programming that responds to need, as documented, of serious emotional disturbance among young children in Mobile County.

□ Depending upon level of need documented in Action Step #1, develop a public awareness campaign (T.V., billboards, brochures) identifying symptoms of serious emotional disturbance in young children 12 and under, information on how to access screening, and available resource solutions in Mobile County.

Substance-abuse (alcohol and drug use, or AOD) during pregnancy is a problem behavior with long-term negative consequences for both the child who is born under these circumstances, the mother, and society. When this substance abuse by the mother continues, results can include diminished parenting, potential court/custody involvement, and economic stress. Data clearly documents that AOD use during pregnancy leads to premature births, resulting in an array of

lifelong problems for the child, including developmental delays, physical disabilities, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. This constellation of problems associated with substance abuse during pregnancy is also very costly to society: one normal delivery costs approximately \$5,000; one premature birth delivery costs up to \$70,000.

Policy Council Action Step

☐ Develop a cross systems partnership, including the Mobile County Health Department's Teen Center, the University of South Alabama's Women's and Children's Center, and local substance-abuse treatment providers, such as Emma's Harvest Home and Home of Grace, to respond to a SAMHSA proposal for Residential Treatment of Pregnant and Postpartum Women (RFA T103-012)

a. Conduct a literature review to identify best practice interventions and profiles of high risk women

☐ Conduct a review of substance-abuse treatment options for women in Mobile County.

a. Link with Contact Mobile to expand concept of county-wide resource directory of services for children and adults to include: quarterly updates; availability in other formats, such as web-based and pre-recorded telephone options.

1) include substance-abuse options for women in this resource directory; detailing priorities given pregnant women, if any;

2) ensure that this information is available to cross-systems agencies, such as adult court systems, the Mobile County Health Department, Teen Center, physicians, Mobile Mental Health, and DHR.

☐ Visit facility in central Florida for substance-abusing women and their children

a. Explore viability of such a "village-based" facility in Mobile County, similar to the Sybil Smith Village, but for substance-abusing women and their children.

☐ Work with the Drug Education Council to explore the feasibility of an educational program to be implemented on-site in physicians offices to inform nurses and doctors regarding screening, referral, and local treatment options

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** No aggregate data available for SED children under 12 in Mobile County;

Goal: 75% of agencies surveyed regarding SED in children under 12 will complete their survey.

☐ **Baseline:** Low Birth Weight Babies, 2003 Alabama Kids Count Data Book: 49th out of 67 counties;

Goal: Improve Low Birth Weight ranking by 2006.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Alcohol, tobacco and other drug intervention [Adult caregivers]; MH1

☐ Resource Directory; MH8

☐ Other [Collect data/SED children under 12]; MH9

☐ Case management/case coordination across agencies assessment/referral and follow-up; MH2

☐ Group counseling [Day-tx for SED children]; MH5

☐ Information distribution [symptoms/resources for parents]; MH8

SAFETY

Early intervention is a critical link in long-term successful strategies to improve the well-being of children in Mobile County; a lack of resources results in inconsistent funding for early intervention programs for high risk youth; this lack of commitment makes it difficult for helping agencies and law enforcement to implement long-term, proactive early intervention services designed to improve the safety of children, even though they have been proven effective and cost less than later, reactive responses

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Collect quantifiable data, from local programming when possible, to document the effectiveness of early intervention programs.

a. Work with local service providers and the Youth Violence Prevention Program at the University of South Alabama to collect and develop a user-friendly, marketable reporting format for existing data that documents the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention.

☐ Disseminate results.

a. Develop written format (brochure) and Power Point presentation to report findings and distribute/present to civic organizations, legislators, local officials, churches, etc.;

b. Develop a web-site for the Mobile Children's Policy Council with a link for "Early Intervention - It Works Right Here in Mobile" - document finding regarding prevention effectiveness;

c. Identify a media group willing to donate time toward developing a TV and billboard-based public awareness campaign;

d. Work with local TV stations to secure public service message time slots;

e. Work with an outdoor advertising group willing to donate billboard space.

☐ Develop a "Report Card" for child health and well-being in Mobile County similar to the format used by the Madison County Children's Policy Council.

a. Disseminate results to legislators, local officials, civic organizations, churches, media, etc.;

1) Discuss connection between poor childhood well-being and later loss of productivity as an adult; implications for Mobile County as a viable, competitive site for business development, etc.

☐ Conduct a series of workshops for local service providers to increase intra-agency awareness of available programming and services, eligibility criteria, etc.; encourage development of cross-systems partnerships for early intervention.

a. Offer training in an evidence-based risk and protective factor index (Communities that Care, 1999) and discuss how this relates to the PRIDE survey implemented in the school system annually as well as agency grant writing/program development.

b. Work with participating agencies to help them document effectiveness of programming using risk and protective factors as outcome measures (linked with PRIDE survey).

c. Provide continuing education credits for social workers and counseling professionals at these workshops.

Underage drinking is a negative intergenerational legacy in Mobile County that spans socio-economic borders and neighborhood boundaries; nationally, the link between underage drinking and aggressive behavior is clearly documented, and is particularly acute in college-age binge drinking; underage drinkers are also at increased risk of being a victim or

perpetrator of a violent act, particularly sexual assault; long-term strategies are needed to change the social norms that condone underage drinking in Mobile County; immediate implementation of evidence-based interventions designed to arm youth with the comprehensive life skill techniques they need to make better decisions about underage drinking is an important first step in the longer-term process of changing social norms regarding underage drinking in Mobile County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Develop a longitudinal demonstration project to test the efficacy of evidence-based lifeskills programming on use of alcohol and alcohol-related violence with a diverse sample of high school students from three local schools.

a. Explore possibility of working with the Mobile County Public School System to identify two high schools with a high percentage of college-bound students (potential schools: Le Flore and /Murphy).

b. Explore possibility of working with Pat Taylor at St. Paul's.

c. Invite the Underage Drinking Task Force to join with the MCPC Safety Committee to further develop/support such a demonstration project.

☐ Secure funding for demonstration project and implement program through cross-systems partnership.

a. Potential funding sources: SAMHSA or Robert Woods Johnson Foundation.

☐ Identify strategies for longer-term social norm change regarding underage drinking, substance-abuse, and related violence.

a. Explore development of intergenerational, community-based mentoring programs that link implementation of evidence-based lifeskills with faith-based coalitions, community action groups, and youth service providers.

☐ Based on longitudinal evaluation results of demonstration project, consider broadening scope to a larger group of high school students (non college-bound included); include more schools, as requested by the Mobile County Public School System and other area private schools.

a. Research other funding sources for sustainability.

Measures

- Baseline:** Not currently available;
Goal: Collect aggregate data for effectiveness of early intervention/prevention in Mobile County/ or nationally.
- Baseline:** Not currently available;
Goal: Conduct at least one cross-systems training in the CTC Risk and Protective Factor Index by the end of 2004
- Baseline:** City of Mobile Police Department Data: 2003 Alcohol-related arrests for minors (sort by zip code residence for demonstration project areas);
Goal: 2006 Reduced rate for alcohol-related arrests for minors (sort by zip code residence for demonstration project areas).

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Community Education/Awareness; OS4.
- ☐ Other [Early intervention for high-risk youth]; YD11.
- ☐ Alcohol and other drug abuse prevention; MH1.
- ☐ Student support [evidence-based lifeskills]; AD4.

EDUCATION

Too many children come to school from home environments where there is long-term abuse, violence, family substance-abuse, or other dysfunctional situations, and these children are often not emotionally or physically ready to learn

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Identify the Mobile County Public School System feeder-pattern with the highest risk indicators predictive of all five problem behaviors most dangerous for children and youth, as identified by Hawkins and Catalano in their 1999 study funded by the national Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

a. Review risk and protective factor data results from the spring 2003 PRIDE survey, as administered by the State Department of Mental Health through partnership with the Mobile County Public School System.

1) Focus on risk factors predictive of all five problem behaviors.

2) Identify protective factors that buffer the effects of risk exposure (when present, these factors lessen the influence of risk factors).

When children come to school from home environments where there is long-term abuse, violence, family substance-abuse, or other dysfunctional situations, the complexity of their needs cannot be met by the school system alone

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Encourage development of a demonstration project that assigns a multi-disciplinary team of helping professionals (Family Support Team = working title) to the school feeder-pattern identified as the highest risk in the Mobile County Public School System.

a. a school feeder pattern includes elementary schools and middle schools that "feed into" one high school.

☐ This team develops both prevention and intervention strategies that:

a. respond to the risk factors documented in the spring administration of the PRIDE survey that are predictive of violence, substance abuse, delinquency, school drop-out, and teen pregnancy.

b. increase protective factors that lessen these risk factors.

1) Evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies identified by national authorities, such as the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the national Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) that relate specifically to risk and protective factors measured by the PRIDE survey will be implemented.

c. The multi-disciplinary team will include at least one DHR social worker;

d. Potential cross-systems partners in this multi-disciplinary team could include but are not limited to: the Mobile County Public School System, the Mobile County Department of Human Resources, the city of Mobile's Family Intervention Team (FIT), Mobile Mental Health, the Drug Education Council, and the Mobile County Health Department 's Teen Center, as well as other youth-serving agencies, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, the Family Exchange Center, Goodwill Easter Seals, and the Child Advocacy Center, whose services may be required based on the needs of the child and family.

e. The demonstration project will link with existing resources/providers and the MCPC Executive Director will work with providers to develop funding as needed.

f. Community stakeholders, such as parents, PTA groups, neighborhood faith-based groups, and community action groups will also be recruited to participate in evidence-based implementation strategies that respond to risk and protective factors.

Measures

Baseline: Identify at least one dynamic PRIDE Survey risk factor predictive of all five problem behaviors in the school feeder-pattern identified at highest risk (dynamic = subject to change, for example, "favorable attitude toward the problem behavior").

Goal: Reduce this risk factor on the PRIDE survey administered in 2006.

Baseline: No instrument used to collect risk and protective factor data for youth in school prior to 2003.

Goal: Identify highest risk school feeder pattern by end of 2003 using PRIDE survey data to document risk and protective factors by zip code.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

Other - Data collection to identify highest risk youth and families; OS5.

Violence and abuse prevention/lifeskills; YD3.

Case coordination across agencies/assessment referral; FD1.

Multiple services/Family Resource Center; FD3.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Alabama's regressive tax structure is unfair to citizens in lower income tax brackets

Policy Council Action Steps

Link with state-level advocacy groups to coordinate on-site technical assistance workshops in Mobile that utilize already developed strategies and formats to empower community stakeholders and other groups with the information they need to make more-informed decision about current tax reform plans being debated by the legislature.

a. VOICES for Alabama's Children and Alabama Arise.

b. Develop an Economic Security Task Force that could include a cross-systems partnership, such as the Mobile Children's Policy Council, Leadership Mobile, Jr. League, Mobile United, Chamber of Commerce, Bay Area Women's Coalition, Bull's Head Community Action Group, Prichard Harlem Area Weed and Seed, and others to help coordinate workshops and identify community stakeholders in need of information about the tax reform package.

Identify advocates in the legislature, particularly local legislative advocates, and ask for their support in issues that affect children.

a. Awareness Issues - develop an "e-tree" for the MCPC Executive Director to pass along information received from VOICES as available regarding current legislative developments that impact the health and well-being of children (persons to contact, etc.).

The high cost to individuals and employers for health insurance results in too many under-insured and un-insured families in Mobile County; this prevents parents from seeking preventive health/dental care

Policy Council Action Steps

Link with the recently formed community Task Force initiated by Providence Hospital addressing health issues among the medically vulnerable in Mobile.

a. Chair of the MCPC Economic Security committee already a member of this Task Force; MCPC Executive Director will also join.

1) they will update Committee and MCPC; explore avenues for collaboration.

Measures

Baseline: None currently available;

Goal: Help coordinate implementation of at least three community-based workshops about the tax reform package.

Baseline: 2002 Data: ____ % of children in Mobile County enrolled in All Kids.

Goal: Increase by ____ % by 2006.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

Other: Community Awareness/Tax Reform; ED11.

Health services: insurance enrollment; PH5.

EARLY CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

Too many children aged birth to five are exposed to low quality early care environments that do not positively influence their developmental potential.

This results in a lack of school readiness and undetected special needs, as well as physical, cognitive, social, and emotional developmental delays

Policy Council Action Steps

❑ Develop a working definition of "quality early care;" MCPC Early Care Committee, in collaboration with interested agencies and providers will identify in writing the essential elements that create a quality early care environment.

❑ Increase motivation for childcare providers to improve the quality of their care.

Seal of Approval - MCPC Early Care Committee and Executive Director build-upon TOPS - Teaching Our Preschoolers to Succeed program developed by Envision Mobile-Baldwin under the leadership of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce;

a. Clarify with the Mobile Chamber of Commerce their interest in continuing to be involved in the TOPS project; and/or develop collaboration between MCPC Early Care Committee and Early Childhood Directions (as the Chamber's previously designated partner) to move forward with the TOPS project;

b. Finalize criteria and processes for designating preschool services/programs as having a TOPS "Seal of Approval" for offering early child care programs that meet TOPOS guidelines for school readiness activities and high quality care for children. Make available a list of all preschool programs that have earned the Seal of Approval, in both website and printed versions. Collaborate with Chamber to cover printing costs.

c. Work with the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs (particularly in exploring access to the T.E.A.C.H. program) and local agencies such as Early Childhood Directions and DHR to develop technical assistance opportunities for child care programs that don't meet criteria to help them attain a TOPS designation.

Quality Grants - MCPC researches funding to provide one-time grants for unlicensed child care providers to offset costs associated with licensing requirements.

Tiered Reimbursement - Advocate for a tiered reimbursement schedule for child care providers, with licensed child care providers receiving a higher reimbursement for DHR-subsidized child care;

a. Support the efforts of the Alabama Department of Human Resources State Child Care Partnership Advisory Committee;

1) MCPC Early Care Committee will participate in Child Care Partnership Advisory Committee meetings in order to engage in policy formation related to a tiered reimbursement schedule.

❑ Advocacy with Policy Makers - Support efforts for fair

and equitable licensing statutes to cover all early care and early education programs (excluding "kith and kin"). Raise awareness of the unintended consequences of unlicensed childcare facilities among current policy makers.

a. Advocate that public funds purchase safe, quality childcare by supporting efforts that require all childcare programs receiving subsidy funds - even those exempt from licensing - to meet Minimum Standards as developed in accordance with the provisions of the Alabama Child Care Act of 1971.

❑ Develop Information and Networking Opportunities for Caregivers in the Home - Encourage a demonstration project that links an existing grassroots project, such as the University of Alabama's Strengthening Neighborhood Investment and their Outreach Workers, with caregivers of children under five living in high-risk neighborhoods.

a. This demonstration project could offer caregiver support groups, informational sessions, and structured playgroup sessions to relay information about quality early care in a user-friendly, neighborhood-based environment. Link with agencies such as the Teen Center and Early Childhood Directions to conduct educational sessions as a part of these "playgroup" sessions;

b. MCPC researches any additional funding necessary for demonstration project, as required.

❑ Support efforts to develop and strengthen a professional childcare workforce through training, recruitment, and retention efforts.

Teacher Substitute Pool - Work to develop a teacher substitute pool available to all early care programs. MCPC Early Care Committee, in collaboration with a private sector partner employment agency and a public sector partner (MCDHR JOBS) will seek to establish a pool of trained and available workers to act as substitutes in childcare programs. These individuals will also be available for hire.

Mentoring - Encourage on-the-job mentoring projects that link new childcare workers with childcare providers who are currently working in high-quality child care environments; available to both licensed and unlicensed child care providers, Head Start, etc. MCPC researches funding at the national level for a demonstration project in one neighborhood/community with particularly high-risk indicators for poor school readiness and high first grade retention rates.

Expand content and accessibility of existing training and education - Work with local community agencies that currently provide training (GRCMA, GCCDA, SAFCO, DHR, Family Exchange Club, Red Cross, and individual providers) to encourage more intermediate and advanced training. Explore feasibility of Internet-based training. More training - particularly at intermediate & advanced levels - needs to be developed and made available to providers in the following areas:

- *Working w/ parents and families
- *Multiculturalism
- *Observing and assessing children

- *Innovation and program diversity
- *Working with infants and toddlers
- *Working with children with special needs
- *Promoting ethical behavior and professional development

- *Working across human service disciplines
- *Developing management and leadership

Recruitment - Work with area high schools, colleges, employment agencies, and providers to recruit people into Early Childhood Education (ECE) preparation programs. Example: Encourage centers to partner with local high schools for classroom credit for volunteers/teacher aides.

Professional Development - Support & encourage institutions of higher education in developing the faculty and programs required to provide the professional development that early childhood teachers need. Collaborate with the University of Mobile, Spring Hill College, USA College of Education, Bishop State, and Faulkner State Community College, and all available Technical Schools to encourage them to offer an appropriate program for the certification of early childhood teachers at the undergraduate level. Support current credentials that meet national standards. Work to increase availability and accessibility of credit bearing training as well as making matriculation agreements among two and four-year colleges the norm (local colleges don't currently accept CDA certification toward AA or BA). The following certifications should be offered - CDA, AA, BA. Help explore, coordinate, and support T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for local teachers who qualify.

Literacy issues - Link with the Mobile Literacy Coalition and other interested groups/organization to explore remedial reading opportunities for childcare workers in need of literacy training.

☐Parents need access to user-friendly information about early care and education, and the necessary skills to be effective parents.

a. Link with Envision Mobile to pursue publishing the parent resource booklet compiled by them. Cross check this information with the Resource Directory information compiled by MCPC and posted on the Department of Children's Affairs website. Distribute printed information and website linkage information through community centers, libraries, Chamber of Commerce, churches, city recreation centers, etc.

b. Begin dialog with DHR about the merit of parenting classes for all parents that receive financial assistance; explore implementation strategies.

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Enhance public, business sector, and legislative awareness of the need for early intervention and prevention.

a. Link with the MCPC Safety Committee to develop and implement a public awareness campaign documenting the merits (local and national) of early intervention and prevention, per Issue 1 of the Safety Committee's 2003/04 Needs Assessment recommendations.

☐Link with the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs to develop strategies for improving services for very young children in the state of Alabama.

Measures

☐**Baseline:** 2002 Data Book, Alabama Kids Count: county ranking for Mobile on "first grade retention rate" indicator is 62nd out of 67 counties;

Goal: Improve 2006 ranking in Alabama Kids Count Data Book

☐**Baseline:** In 2003, 57% of Mobile's childcare centers are licensed*;

Goal: Increase percentage to 75% by 2006.

☐**Baseline:** There are currently 3,040 children on the waiting list for the child care subsidy program which helps eligible families pay for child care;

Goal: By FY 2004, the Alabama legislature will approve funding that would provide child care financial assistance for an additional 1,000 children in Mobile County (\$3,372,000).

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐Early intervention/parent education; CD2.

☐Center-based childcare/quality improvement; CD5.

☐Advocacy with policy makers; OS5.

☐Other: Advocate with policy makers about the need for early intervention; CD7.

**These programs operate in compliance with standards promulgated under the authority of the Alabama Child Care Act of 1971. The Child Care Act mandates compliance with standards that address issues of child health and safety, staffing requirements, (including training), and facilities requirements.*

There is a lack of commitment to investing in services for very young children in Alabama; this results in costly remedial services at a later age

Monroe County

Monroe County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. William J. Causey Jr., District Court Judge

Rose Johnson
Barbara McMillan
Dewayne Beesley
Clinton Stanton
Dennis Mixon
Jim Brooks
Tommy Chapman
Jimmy Warren

Otha Lee Biggs
Sheriff Tom Tate
Kay Lett
John Wright
Dr. John Grider
Laura Grantham
Bob McMillan
Phil Sanchez

Donna Wasden
James Prevo
Bruce Shue
Prissy Manning
Deidre Munnerlyn
Benita Perry
Jeanne Sewell
Ywell Cunningham



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

County Needs Assessment not available

Montgomery County

Montgomery County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Richard H. Durrough, Circuit Court Judge, Presiding

Hon W Mark Anderson	Sherri Herring	Rep. Gregory Wren
Hon. John Capell	Bruce R. Howell	Hon. William Joseph
Terrilton Benton	James Martin	Sheriff D. T. Marshall
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Jan Byrne	Rep. John Knight	Walter P. White
Maxine Wheeler	Rep. Thad McClammy	Karen Burghardt
Clinton Carter	Rep. Bob McKee	



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All children deserve to grow up mentally and physically healthy in a safe environment

- ☐ Raise awareness of the importance of early care and development.
- ☐ Early identification of at risk youth/families.
- ☐ Establishment of visitation centers.
- ☐ Change age of parental consent to marry from age 14 to age 16/18.
- ☐ A full continuum of care for children's psychiatric needs is available locally.

Schools, early childhood education and childcare are appropriately funded and managed to provide a safe and quality learning environment

- ☐ Promote program "Building Base Student Support Team".
- ☐ Identify/develop discipline/violence curriculum to be used in schools.
- ☐ Encourage development of higher education curriculum addressing discipline issues for educators.

HEALTH

Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Beds

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Actively seek funding sources.
- ☐ Determine utilization.
- ☐ Facility/Staff.

Youth Sexual Activity Prevention and Education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Address at risk health behaviors through education at school and in the community.
- ☐ Continued education.
- ☐ Actively seek funding for educators.

Adolescent Pregnancy Reduction

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continued coordination public/private organizations.
- ☐ School based services-education/case management.
- ☐ Actively seek funding.

Measures

- Baseline:** Zero Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Beds Exist in Montgomery County.
- Goal:** To have psychiatric beds available.
- ☐ Kids Count 2002 13.5% Births to unmarried teens.
- Baseline:** Numbers for Montgomery County for Teen Pregnancy and STD's are above national and state levels.
- Goal:** Reduce numbers of births to unmarried teens and STDs below state level.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Crisis Intervention; MH3.
- Explanation:** Inpatient psychiatric care needed and is not available.

☐Healthy Behavior; PH10 & FD8.

Explanation: Educate Youth on Prevention of Pregnancy.

☐Teen Pregnancy and STDs reduction; MH2, PH10, PH5

Explanation: Coordination of Service Providers to Adolescents.

SAFETY

Children should be free of substance abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Hold parents accountable for securing prescription drugs/alcohol.

☐Legislative changes to "Open House Party" Law, (making prosecution easier).

Children should be free of domestic violence

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Supervised visitation center.

☐Legislation needed to define what is considered domestic violence when the parties are: *siblings, *parent/child conflict.

Children should be safe at school

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Funding for increased school security officers.

☐Continue to support programs that address gang issues.

Parental consent to marry needs to be increased to 16/18

Measures

☐Kids Count 2002.

Baseline: Juvenile Substance Abuse Arrest Rate 159.

Goal: Lower referrals.

☐Kids Count 2002.

Baseline: Juvenile Violent Crime Court Referral Rate 149.

Goal: Lower rates.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐Stress importance of parent(s) of keeping control of medication and alcohol; MH1.

Explanation: Alcohol, Tobacco and other drug abuses prevention/intervention.

Montgomery County

☐Family Counseling; MH4.

Explanation: Family support and basic life skills training.

☐Family Counseling; MH4.

Explanation: Family violence prevention/intervention.

☐Provide Security at Schools; YD11.

Explanation: Funding for security.

EDUCATION

Adequate Funding

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Support/encourage officials to find permanent source of adequate revenue for Montgomery Public Schools.

☐Encourage citizens to support funding plan.

Improve Discipline

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Contact school system/State Department of Education to request that a system wide (K-12) curriculum be adopted to address discipline issues/violence.

☐Curriculum plan should be a strong professional development component.

a. Curriculum plan should include a component for parental involvement.

b. Curriculum plan should include a component involving the community.

☐Teachers/principal identifies "at risk" students and develop an individual plan to mentor/remediate each student (K-12).

Measures

☐Montgomery County Public Schools budget for Oct. 2002-September 2003.

Baseline: \$221,764,533.00

Goal: Level funding for 2003-2004.

☐Kids Count 2002.

Baseline: Dropout Rate 4.6% (2002)

Goal: Less than 2.0%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐Community Education/Awareness; 054.

Explanation: Raise public awareness by use of campaigns, speakers, and billboards.

☐Teacher training/Career Development; AD9.

Explanation: Teacher training to identify "at risk" students and to address discipline issues.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Improve percent of Paternity Identification/Improve Child Support Payments

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify organizations that provide services and link clients with churches, service providers, etc.
- ☐ Publicize and disseminate information to better utilize in hospital paternity program.

Expose Youth to Employment/Career Development/Economic Development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increased publicity and awareness of literacy/GED programs.
- ☐ Increase access and funding to skills/job/marketability training under Workforce Investment Act.
- ☐ Establish an all encompassing transportation initiative/infrastructure.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count 2002
Baseline: % of children on AFCD/TANF 5%
Goal: Increase child support payments in Montgomery County by 10%
- ☐ Kids Count 2002
Baseline: % of children living in poverty - 25.1%
Goal: Lower Rate

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide child care for working parents/parents in job training; ED3.
Explanation: Adequate Funding for childcare
- ☐ Information distribution; ED6.
Explanation: Provide Job Fair, resource director, career day.
- ☐ Job Training/Career planning; ED7.
Explanation: Continue Funding for Youth Development Coordinators positions.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

All children are actively learning in all four developmental areas (i.e. physical, intellectual,

emotional, social) and will be prepared to succeed in school

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Advocate for increased funding for affordable, assessable, appropriate quality childcare to include wraparound care.
- ☐ Increase outreach to children with special health care needs, disabilities and diverse populations.
- ☐ Increase availability of parenting education which addresses the four areas of child development.
- ☐ Increase resources and training opportunities for childcare providers.

Raise the awareness of the importance of early child development

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop a campaign to highlight the importance of early care and education.
- ☐ Provide resources for families e.g. parenting kits, PSA's, resource directories.
- ☐ Encourage parents to be advocates for early development through support groups, speaker groups.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count 2002.
Baseline: First grade retention rate for Montgomery County - 228.
Goal: Increase the number of children who successfully complete the first grade. (Head Start, EI, Demographics, DHR).
- ☐ Headstart Enrollment for Academic Year 2001-2002
Number of children receiving subsidized childcare for fiscal year 2002 (Family Guidance Child Care Management Agency).
Baseline: Head Start Enrollment. Number of children in Montgomery County. Subsidized child care for fiscal year 2002 - 4,682 (estimate).
Goal: Increase the number of children receiving subsidized child care and increase the number of children enrolled in Headstart.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Develop current baseline from data obtained from DHR, Family Guidance, FOCAL, Health Child Care Alabama.
Goal: Increase the number of participants in parenting education and childcare teacher training
- ☐ **Baseline:** unavailable.
Goal: Increase the resources and events which promote the importance of early child development
- ☐ **Baseline:** unavailable.
Goal: Determine the availability of parent support group.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐ Early Intervention: identification, assessment, referral, visitation, parent education, etc.; CD2.

Explanation: Develop a campaign to highlight the importance of early care and education.

☐ Provide resources for families (parenting kits, PSA's etc.); CD6.

☐ Raise public awareness to adequately fund affordable, accessible, appropriate quality childcare to include wraparound care; 054.

Explanation: Adequate funding for child care.

Morgan County

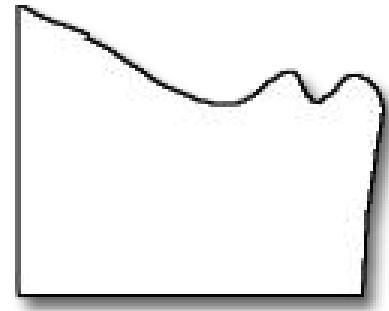
Morgan County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. David J. Breland, District Court Judge

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Richard Lee
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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Quality childcare will be universally available to all working parents, regardless of work schedule or income

- ☐ Increase funding for childcare for low income working families.
- ☐ Encourage faith-based initiatives to assist with childcare for low-income families.

Transportation will be removed as a barrier for families seeking access to services and jobs

- ☐ Assist communities with funding for local public transportation.

- ☐ Provide opportunities for innovative solutions to transportation issues.

A collaborative spirit will flourish in Morgan County and will be exhibited in the actions of the Children's Policy Council and in the delivery of services by the various agencies represented

- ☐ Provide funding opportunities in which agencies are encouraged to collaborate.
- ☐ Acknowledge and/or reward communities which demonstrate exceptional and creative cooperation in efforts to meet the needs of the community.

HEALTH

Teen pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Conduct a Children's Policy Council meeting focused on Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs that currently exist in the community. Encourage collaboration among these programs. Identify gaps in services.
- ☐ Continue to explore funding opportunities for promoting, developing and expanding Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs.
- ☐ Encourage member groups to provide multi-lingual educational materials.
- ☐ Provide Teen Pregnancy Prevention program information on the Children's Policy Council website.

Child Health and Safety

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage member agencies to collaborate on the presentation of a community-wide conference(s), which addresses children's health and safety issues. Identify priority issues such as child sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, immunizations, etc.
- ☐ Provide multi-lingual health information and education to undeserved groups with attention paid to language and cultural barriers and children with developmental disabilities.
- ☐ Encourage local law enforcement agencies to develop a Morgan County Amber Alert System.
- ☐ Encourage member agencies to disseminate ALL Kids information and applications to families in completing the application process.
- ☐ Continue to explore funding opportunities for promoting, developing and expanding Child Health and Safety programs and services.
- ☐ Provide information regarding these action steps on the Children's Policy Council website.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Prevention, Education, and Treatment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Endorse reapplication of existing in-home therapeutic program grants to provide early intervention and identification of at risk youth.
- ☐ Support membership in the Morgan County Substance Abuse Network and application for funding to sustain and expand programs.
- ☐ Endorse grant applications for the development or expansion of mental health/substance abuse treatment programs for youth identified by the juvenile justice system.
- ☐ Encourage member agencies to disseminate ALL Kids information and applications and to assist families in the completing the application.
- ☐ Identify available community resources and provide information to member agencies for distribution to people they serve.
- ☐ Provide information about mental health/substance abuse prevention, education and treatment programs on the Children's Policy Council Webster.

Measures

- ☐ Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program review meeting was conducted in FY 2003 with at least 20 member agencies represented.
- ☐ Agencies who conducted Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs discussed gaps in services and funding opportunities for expansion of services.
- ☐ Multi-lingual educational materials were developed and distributed to at least 700 people.
- ☐ Each identified Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program was listed on the Children's Policy Council website: www.mccpc.alacourt.org
- ☐ Member agencies planned and participated in the Child Safety Conference and other community conferences dealing with children's health and safety issues.
- ☐ Member agencies distributed multi-lingual educational materials at all conferences and at their agency locations.
- ☐ All member agencies displayed ALL Kids brochures in their office location and assisted 1,353 families in completing application process.
- ☐ At least 10 grants were identified for promoting Child Health and Safety programs.
- ☐ A meeting was held with local law enforcement agencies to discuss the implementation of a Morgan County Amber Alert System.
- ☐ Member agencies submitted information about conferences and other Health and Safety issues to the Children's Policy Council website.
- ☐ At least 200 juveniles who had been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused or neglected were served by member agencies.

- ☐ Participating member agencies reapplied for an in-home therapeutic program grant.
- ☐ At least 80% of member agencies joined the Morgan County Substance Abuse Network and participated in community programs sponsored by MCSAN.
- ☐ At least 3 grants were identified by member agencies to provide mental health/substance abuse treatment programs for juveniles served by the juvenile justice system.
- ☐ A resource directory listing mental health/substance abuse prevention, education, and treatment programs was produced and distributed to all member agencies.
- ☐ Member agencies submitted information about mental health/substance abuse prevention, education, and treatment to the Children's Policy Council website.
- ☐ A grant was written and received to support the HANDS Home Program.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Pregnancy prevention, general; FD8
- ☐ Outreach, specifically to Hispanic population; PH9
- ☐ Crisis Intervention, specifically respite centers; MH3
- ☐ Transportation; OS2
- ☐ Community education/awareness; OS4

SAFETY

Substance abuse by both adults and children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Promote awareness of this issue through support of and commitment to programs designed to address substance abuse.
- ☐ Provide a continuous open dialogue regarding the provision of services to families affected by substance abuse at each Children's Policy Council meeting.
- ☐ Endorse programs that provide early identification and intervention of children and families with issues related to substance abuse.

Domestic (family) violence

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Invite the Domestic Violence Coalition to be represented on the Morgan County Children's Policy Council.
- ☐ Promote collaboration among agencies concerned with child abuse, domestic violence, and spousal abuse.
- ☐ Endorse services involved with the prevention and awareness of all types of domestic violence and child abuse.

Drivers education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Invite the court referral officer to be involved with the children's Policy council.
- ☐ Encourage parents of juvenile problem drivers to attend driving school with their child.
- ☐ Work with district court judges to encourage deferred fines based on successful completion of driving school.

Juvenile detention center

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continue to seek funding for building and maintenance costs for a detention facility
- ☐ Work with juvenile probation officers to refer violent juveniles to lock down.
- ☐ Insure communities are better served having a local detention facility in Morgan County.
- ☐ Insure that a local detention facility has the required services to help in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders and their families.

Measures

- ☐ The juvenile substance abuse arrest rate (1,043 per 100,000 person's aged 10 - 17) will improve. Morgan County's current rank (56th out of 67) in this category will also improve.
- ☐ The number of indicated child abuse and neglect reports would be decreased by 20% from 350 to 280.
- ☐ The number of youth arrested and/or involved in court referral programs for violent crimes will decrease from 70 to 50.
- ☐ Reduce the number of accidents for people between the ages of 14 - 18 by 10%.
- ☐ Provide a safer community by placing in detention the worst juvenile violators. Reduce travel time for officers transporting juveniles to a detention facility.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Early intervention; identification, assessment, referral, visitation, parent education; CD2
- ☐ Parent intervention/participation; AD3
- ☐ Truancy prevention/intervention: attendance follow-up, absentee monitoring; AD6
- ☐ Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention/intervention; MH1
- ☐ Family counseling: including family support and basic life skills training; MH4
- ☐ Peer support/counseling: teen support, women's support; MH7
- ☐ Transportation; OS2

- ☐ Community education/awareness: campaigns, speakers, and billboards; OS4

EDUCATION

Noncompletion/dropout before high school diploma obtained

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support those programs involving early intervention with students who are academically at-risk and more susceptible to noncompletion of high school education.
- ☐ Work to develop alternative education programs for those students who are unable to succeed in traditional classroom settings.
- ☐ Enhance existing services for students who are academically or behaviorally at-risk for dropping out.
- ☐ Promote drug-free and safe schools.

Parental involvement in students' education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide a forum to share ideas for fostering positive parental involvement in children's education.
- ☐ Recognize those schools and school systems that successfully involve parents in the education process.

Measures

- ☐ The dropout rate will decrease from a county-wide average of 20.8% to 15%, thereby improving Morgan County's state rank which is currently 59th of 67.
- ☐ Each of the three school systems will report an increase in parental involvement through PTA/PTO programs.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Alternative school/programs; AD1
- ☐ Parent involvement/participation; AD3
- ☐ Truancy prevention/intervention; AD6
- ☐ Case coordination across agencies; YD2

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Support community task force developed to address transportation issues.

- ☐Encourage grant funding and innovative solutions that are generated by individual agencies in attempts to alleviate current transportation issues.
- ☐Assess ways agencies can work together to assist families and children with transportation problems in accessing needed services (e.g., scheduling appointments, sharing transportation responsibilities, etc.)

Literacy, English as a second language, and GED attainment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Provide endorsement and support to literacy programs such as Even Start, which assists with ESL and GED acquisition.
- ☐Endorse and support initiatives that provide career development and vocational skills.
- ☐Cultivate support from and develop partnerships with the business community in order to assist with job placement for those youth entering the work force.
- ☐Continue with the development of the System of Services Center, a continuum of services for youth at risk.

Measures

- ☐The percentage of children in poverty will decrease from 17% to 15%.
- ☐The percentage of high school seniors passing the Alabama Graduation Exam will remain steady at a county-wide average of about 97%.
- ☐The dropout rate will decrease from a county-wide average of 20.8% to 15%, thereby improving Morgan County's state rank which is currently 59th of 67.
- ☐The percentage of Title I students within the three school systems will decrease as a result of workforce development. Percentages range from a low of 19% within the Hartselle City Schools to about 40% for both the Decatur City and Morgan County systems.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Transportation; OS2
- ☐Job training and placement, multiple services program; ED9
- ☐Adult education and literacy; ED1
- ☐English as second language; ED5

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Family education services

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Increase demonstrated support of existing programs providing family education services.
- ☐Endorse and support programs providing early childhood and parenting education.
- ☐Endorse and support programs providing mental health services to children in this age group and to their families.
- ☐Endorse and support programs providing adult continuing education(e.g., GED, ESL, vocational enhancement) for families with children in this age group.

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Increase demonstrated support of existing programs providing transportation.
- ☐Support community task force developed to address transportation issues.
- ☐Encourage grant funding and innovative solutions that are generated by individual agencies in an attempt to alleviate current transportation deficits.
- ☐Assess ways agencies can work together to assist families and children with transportation problems in accessing needed services (e. g., scheduling appointments, sharing transportation responsibilities, etc.)
- ☐Insist on the involvement of the Morgan County Commission and municipal governments.

Infant mortality

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Increase demonstrated support of existing programs designed to combat infant mortality.
- ☐Support the efforts of the newly-formed FIMR (Fetal and Infant Mortality Response) Team.
- ☐Increase awareness and follow recommendations of current research regarding trends of infant mortality.

Teen pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Increase demonstrated support of existing programs designed to address teen pregnancy.
- ☐Aid in dissemination of current research trends regarding teen pregnancy.
- ☐Emphasize intensive programming for teen males regarding pregnancy prevention.
- ☐Assess successful programs in other regions of the Southeastern United States.

Measures

- ☐Agencies providing family education services will report increased enrollment in programs .

- ❑The number of new programs developed to remove the transportation barrier will increase.
- ❑Morgan County has the highest infant mortality rate in Region 1. The infant mortality rate will improve from 8.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Morgan County's rank in this category, which is 44 of 67 will also improve.
- ❑The number of babies born to unmarried teen mothers who have not finished high school will decrease by 5% from 95 to 90. This number has increased from 83 to 95 in the past year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑Parenting education/skills development, general; FD6.
- ❑Adult education and literacy; ED1.
- ❑English as second language; ED5.
- ❑Community education/awareness; OS4.
- ❑Transportation; OS2.
- ❑Pregnancy prevention; FD8.
- ❑Education and support services related to infant mortality.

Perry County

Perry County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Richard M. Avery, Jr., District Court Judge

Joyce Oneal
John Suttle
Lottie Lewis
Alvin Reed

Shirley Robinson
Albert Turner, Jr.
Annie Holmes
Cedric Heard

Sam King
Tom Alsabrook



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Health

☐ To reduce the rank of uninsured children by working with the Health department, school nurse and relating information to parents for assistance via radio, flyers and health fairs.

Outcome - reduce the uninsured children age 0-19 from the All Kids rank of 62% to 45% in the next year.

Economics

☐ To create a more economic/Industrial/business opportunities in the county. The Policy Council will

encourage utilization of resources in the county and training through job readiness programs.

Outcome - to reduce the Kids Count rank of poverty from 57% to 57% in the next year.

Safety

☐ To initiate a safe environment for kids 0-19 years of age by consulting with law enforcement officers, applying use of drug prevention programs, and creating constructive recreation in the community.

Outcome - a reduction of the juvenile/neglect/abuse rank by 40%.

HEALTH

To make available health insurance and care to all children age 0-19

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ To establish all children in Perry County who are medically uninsured, through the assistance of the Health Department, schools and The Department of Human Resources.

☐ Communicate with faith based programs through the churches to inform parents of available assistance.

☐ The Children's Policy Council will monitor the progress of these programs and the availability to the children of Perry County.

☐ Consultation with school nurse to insure information is given to the student of available assistance.

☐ Relate information through radio based programs.

To lower the rate of teen pregnancies in Perry County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ The Children's Policy Council will encourage The Department of Human Resources, and The Health Department to create an educational unit that offers alternatives to teen pregnancy.

☐ To communicate with a church link that will develop a responsible parenting program for the youth.

☐ Continue to encourage community hands on programs that can make an impact in helping to lower the teen Pregnancy rate in Perry County.

Measures

☐ To reduce the current rate of uninsured children 0-19 by 25% percent in the next year.

☐ Reduce the existing rank of 62% stated in the Alabama Kids count to 55% within the next year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ To aide in continued school based social workers.

☐ Request that the state All Kids program work directly with the Perry County Children's Policy Council to provide health insurance to our children 0-19.

☐ Request that the state provide literature, audio visuals,

and other educational tools to aid our schools and social service agencies in reducing the teen pregnancy rate.

SAFETY

The Childrens' Policy Council is to work with Department of Human Resources, and law enforcement officers, to help in the aid of abuse/neglect, juvenile crime and behavior problem children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continue the referral program with mental health counseling for anger management, and parenting classes in Perry County.
- ☐ Encourage parents and agencies to communicate with Juvenile Probation Officer and Law enforcement officers and parents.
- ☐ Encourage law enforcement to continue their visitation of the schools and parent/child consultation

The Childrens' Policy Council will work with law enforcement to reduce the Juvenile Crime rate in Perry County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Propose a continued effort to impose court ordered curfew for any child appearing the Juvenile Court.
- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will aggressively work with The County Commissioners to secure a grant for a local resource center.
- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will continue investigation for the possibility of a Big brother/sister mentoring program coming to Perry County.

Measures

- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will work to reduce Kids Count rank of 51% to 43% in the next twelve months for first grade retention.
- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will work to reduce the Kids Count rank of 21% to 15% in the next twelve months for juvenile violent crime.

EDUCATION

Childrens' Policy Council will endeavor to improve the first grade retention rate

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will continue to work toward the obtaining a fair readiness exam to be administered to all children, entering first grade.
- ☐ To provide all parents of children 0-5 years, with a copy of the readiness exam curriculum for first grade on a request basis through early childhood educational programs.
- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will promote tutoring classes for first grade students and parenting classes through community agencies .

Childrens' Policy Council will strive to reduce the high school drop out rate of Kids rank from 62% to 52% within the upcoming year

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Children's Policy Council will present student information for an alternative to college plans such as, technical schools, armed services and professional careers, also initiating tutoring programs.
- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council desires to encourage communication between the career link person and the school system, and sponsor motivational programs.
- ☐ Children's Policy Council will endeavor working to help to develop a community based career link from high school to armed forces for kids 0-19 years of age, encourage tutoring programs.
- ☐ Support and encourage more job readiness programs in the county.

Measures

- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will work to reduce the first grade retention Kids Count rank from 51% to 41% in the next twelve months.
- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council will endeavor to reduce the drop out rank from Kids Count from 62% to 52% within the next twelve months.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Childrens' Policy Council request that the state helps toward identifying grant monies, to employ a career link person in the school system.
- ☐ Request to State Board of Education to assist Childrens' Policy Council by developing a readiness test for all first

grade students, which is academically and socially acceptable; CD2

❑Request that state assist in developing an alternative program which includes, technical-career instruction and flex class scheduling; AD1

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Unemployment rate in Perry County

Policy Council Action Steps

❑Perry County Childrens' Policy Council will support the community leaders in their efforts to bring industry to the community and provide available jobs.

❑Childrens' Policy Council will encourage the support of the community to the businesses available to enhance economic security in the lives of our children.

❑Childrens' Policy Council will support the efforts of the community and The Seeds of Hope program, which would improve the living environment of the children in Perry County.

Low Per Capita Income

Policy Council Action Steps

❑Perry County Childrens' Policy Council will continue encouraging employment of young citizens, to teach them a skill that upon graduation, they can be productive in the county in which they live, omitting the necessity to leave the county.

❑Childrens' Policy Council will continue to seek and obtain data in other counties in Alabama, who have helped to eradicate poverty.

❑Childrens' Policy Council will encourage and support the Leaders, and promote a continued flow of new ideas for the spaces that are available for business in the county.

Measures

❑Childrens' Policy Council is to reduce the Kids Count of 67% to 57% for Children in Poverty in Perry County.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

To create a community based parenting class for the parents of children 0-5 years

Policy Council Action Steps

❑Perry County Childrens' Policy Council will define the term (at risk) for parents of children 0-5 years of age.

❑Perry County Childrens' Policy Council is to contact (at risk) families at the hospital, upon the arrival of a newborn.

❑Perry County Childrens' Policy Council will gather data from pediatricians and childcare givers to produce basic instruction books for new mothers, i.e.(From The Womb To The World. BK1

Lack of adequate Daycare facilities for children 0-5 in Perry County

Policy Council Action Steps

❑Childrens' Policy Council will investigate the ratio between births to unmarried teens and adequate daycare facilities available.

❑Perry County Childrens' Policy Council is to investigate certification process to make sure criteria is up to standards.

❑Childrens' Policy Council is to investigate daycare facilities to assure that they provide accurate academic readiness programs.

❑Support the establishment of adequate daycare facilities that meet standard requirements.

Measures

❑Childrens' Policy Council will endeavor to reduce the rank of infant mortality rates, child health index first grade retention, child death rate, children with indication of abuse and neglect by an overall of 25% in the next year(reference, Kids Count data book).

State Program and Policy Recommendations

❑Childrens' Policy Council request that State of Alabama, Department of Licensing to provide Childrens' Policy Council Licensing criteria.

Pickens County

Pickens County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Ira B. (Benny) Colvin, District Court Judge

Marilyn Ezelle
Elizabeth Rice
Barry Ambrose
David Seay
Vicky Petty
Fred Gray
Quaniti Owings
Melissa Walker
Debra Abston

Sen. Roger Bedford
Dr. Leonard Duff
Cynthia Simpson
Tony Junkin
Cathy Barnett
Isola Lark
Darrick Dorrough
Tom Montgomery
J. Chris McCool

Sen. Phil Poole
Rep. Allen Layson
Rep. William
Thigpen
Melinda Robinson
Patty Presley-Fuller
John E. Paluzzi



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Economic development in rural counties

☐ Continue to seek ways to assist rural counties in attracting business/industries to locate in area.

Teen pregnancy prevention program

☐ Provide funding sources for teen pregnancy programs and parenting programs for teens.

Education and training for parents

☐ Continue funding sources for adults: adult education programs, AIDT programs, welfare-to work training programs

HEALTH

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assist in planning, implementing, and advertising a Teen Expo.
- ☐ Provide support services to abstinence education programs: TGIF, AUPPP, Side By Side, AL Community-Based Abstinence Only Education Program/ADPH.
- ☐ Provide resources and speakers for SMART Choices Program and Side By Side Program for teen parents.

Transportation To Medical Care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Explore use of DHR Volunteer Drivers for transportation.
- ☐ Make appropriate referrals to Tuscaloosa based transportation program for children, Kids One.
- ☐ Make appropriate referrals to HELP, Inc for transportation.

Measures

- Baseline:** Teen pregnancy rate for Pickens County for 2002 was 15.5%.
- Goal:** Reduce teen pregnancy by 5% by 2005.

- Baseline:** Currently one public transportation system in Pickens County which serves primarily the elderly. Very limited use for children and youth services.
- Goal:** Develop a register of referral sources for transportation to medical services and provide to all social service and medical agencies.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Continue funding for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Explanation: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs previously provided in Pickens County have shown to be effective as the rate of teen pregnancies has been reduced over the last 3 years by over 2%.*
- ☐ Increase funding for public transportation services and to non-profit agencies providing transportation to health care services
- Explanation: Funding to transportation sources is limited and additional "rolling stock" is needed to increase services. Non-profits are also in need of additional funding to continue transportation services.*

SAFETY

Provide anger management training for youth and parents

Policy Council Action Steps

- The Children's Policy Council will collaborate with the Pickens County Court System to develop a self-supporting Anger Management program. This program will be court ordered for all people a judge sees fit to attend.
- The Pickens County Children's Policy Council will seek funding for anger management programs and seminars to be available for all citizens.
- Develop a campaign addressing anger management and steps to take to control it. Use local resources such as newspapers, television stations, radio, etc.

Seek funding for substance abuse prevention and intervention

Policy Council Action Steps

- The Children's Policy Council will appoint a Drug Education Counsel that will consist of 6 members of local agencies and 4 members of the community. This counsel will look at programs and prevention methods that have been established in Pickens County and make reports on the effectiveness of these programs. Also, the council will make recommendations to the Children's Policy Council for new and innovative ways to reduce the use of drugs and alcohol in the county.
- Research for possible grants to apply for that will secure monies for education, awareness, and prevention of drugs and alcohol.
- Collaborate with local agencies to conduct drug awareness programs at the county schools.

Measures

- Baseline:** During SY 2002-03, 98 4-6th graders spent a total of 342 days in in-school suspension at Pickens County Alternative School. Of these students 10 were recommended for expulsion and attendance at the Alternative School. Most of these suspensions were due to aggression and disruptive behaviors.
- Goal:** Anger Management classes, seminars, and programs will be available to the public.
- Baseline:** 2002 Alabama Kids Count Data Book - Juvenile Substance Abuse Arrest Rate is 220.0
- Goal:** To reduce the arrest rate by 50.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- State funding for anger management programs.
Explanation: Anger management programs will reduce the number of abused children and reduce the juvenile violent crime rate.
- State funding for drug programs.
Explanation: Drug programs will reduce the number of juvenile substance court referral rate and juvenile substance abuse arrest rates.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Lack of Industrial Development & Jobs for Parents & Youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- Work cooperatively with the Pickens Co. Economic and Community Development Committee to secure funding for economic development in the county through ARC funding.
- Encourage CPC membership and business persons/civic leaders to actively work with local and area Industrial Development Authority Boards' efforts to attract business & industry.

Lack of Trained Workforce

Policy Council Action Steps

- Encourage CPC membership and business persons/civic leaders to participate with the Pickens County Workforce Development Plan and Economic & Community Development Action Plans (in process).
- Work with Beville State Community College administration to assist with proposed expansion of programs and offerings at BSCC in Carrollton.
- Utilize and expand Family Resource Center's programs.

Measures

- Baseline:** Pickens County's unemployment rate for March, 2003 was 7.9% compared to the state's rate of 5.7% and the national rate of 5.8%.
- Goal:** Reduce the unemployment rate in Pickens County by 2% over the next year through expansions and/or attracting new business/industry to the county.
- Baseline:** Current AIDT class for job readiness ends funding on June 30, 2003, Welfare-to-Work Program funding uncertain for next grant year, low number of career-technical programs offered in local high schools and community college.
- Goal:** Work with local agencies (Board of Ed, Beville State, & PC Family Resource Ctr) to secure additional funding streams for out-of-school Job Readiness classes and to update career/technical program offerings in schools and community college.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- Business/Industry Partnerships Economic Development in the county will greatly improve standard of living for children and youth.
- Additional funded WIA Training Programs located in rural counties (EX. Truck Driving Classes).

Explanation: Provision of additional training for parents of children and youth will enable parents to be more competitive in the job market, thus increasing available income for family needs.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Parenting and no local prenatal care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage expectant teen mothers to seek pre-natal care by providing referrals and prenatal classes.
- ☐ Continue efforts to fund programs such as Early Head Start, Begin Education Early (BEE) and Side-By-Side.
- ☐ Work cooperatively with the AL Healthcare Network on the Maternity Waiver Provider program.
- ☐ Develop a public awareness campaign for available resources relating to parenting and prenatal care.

Increase Child Care Availability

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Assist local centers in securing funds for increasing child care hours of operation.
- ☐ Encourage efforts of individuals to operate licensed day care homes and centers.

Measures

- Baseline:** 2002 data reflect a 15.5% rate of births to unmarried teens in Pickens County.
- Goal:** Continue parent education programs and work to reduce the rate of repeat teen pregnancies by 4%
- Baseline:** Currently there are 8 licensed day care centers and 8 licensed home day care centers providing care during the day with no extended hour services.
- Goal:** Increase the number of day care centers and homes who provided extended day services: 2 additional centers or homes in North and South ends of county.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Continue funding for Parenting Classes and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs.
Explanation: Parenting classes and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs have proved to be effective in reducing teen pregnancy rate and in reducing child abuse and neglect cases.
- ☐ Increase Incentives/Subsidies for Day Care Providers

Explanation: Incentives/subsidies for day care providers such as the USDA Child Nutrition Program help to increase daycare providers chance of continuing in business.

EDUCATION

Low educational level of parents

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage parents to participate in Pickens County Adult Education programs for GED preparation and Adult Literacy Programs.
- ☐ Seek funding for training programs to be offered at night to provide job related academic instruction.
- ☐ Encourage extension of funding for existing programs such as Welfare-to-Work training programs, Adult Literacy Programs.

Parental Involvement and Support in Child's Education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Continue efforts to educate parents as to the benefits of involvement with their child's education.
- ☐ Work with local schools to seek ways to provide incentives to encourage parents to begin to be more supportive of their child's education and more involved in their child's school.

Measures

- Baseline:** Pickens County has a literacy rate of 35% according to National Institute for Literacy.
- Goal:** Increase literacy rate by 5%.
- Baseline:** Low parental involvement as evidenced by records of local PTA, PTSO, STARS Parent Groups and Head Start Parent Groups.
- Goal:** Increase parental involvement in school support groups by 5% during the next year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Legislation for funding additional adult education and literacy training programs
Explanation: Increased literacy rate of parents would encourage parents to be more supportive of their child's education and would encourage parent's efforts to become more employable.
- ☐ Provide best practice programs that encourage parental support for schools and education at State CPC Conference
Explanation: Local Children's Policy Councils can use ideas from best practice programs to encourage parental support of education.

Pike County

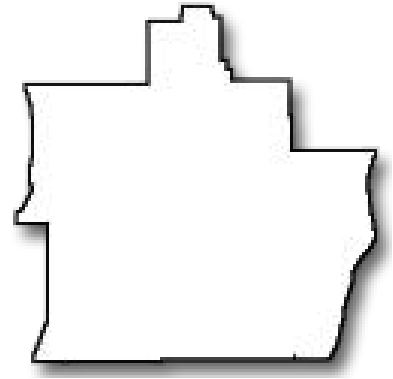
Pike County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. William G. Hightower, District Court Judge

Florence Mitchell
Don Schofield
Fred Gray
Russ Harris
Mark Bazzell
Hank Jones

Patricia Smith
Carol Bassett
Gary L. McAliley
Sen. Wendell Mitchell
Rep. Alan Booth
Karen Berry

Johnny Henderson
Octavia Jones
Brenda Dubose
Terry Watkins
Isabell Boyd
Rev. Louis McMillion



HEALTH

Improved pre-natal and post-natal care

Health issues including substance abuse, unsafe sexual behavior, sexual abuse of children, unhealthy dietary behaviors combined with physical inactivity

SAFETY

After school prevention programs for at-risk children

Strengthened families through enhanced family counseling for intra-family conflict resolution and parenting skills training

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Funding to establish after school prevention programs.
- ☐Family counseling programs.
- ☐Parenting skills/anger management.

EDUCATION

Intensive educational needs of young people beyond

alternative schools

Enhanced learning resources for children with unique needs

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Establishment of day treatment program.
- ☐Additional funding for special programs within school systems to meet unique education needs.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Parenting skills training

State Program and Policy Recommendations:

- ☐Additional funding for counties for day care programs.

Randolph County

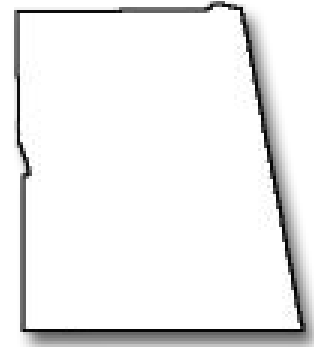
Randolph County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. W. Patrick Whaley, Juvenile Court Judge

Ray Burgess
Katherine Smith
Patrick Henry
Marsha Norred
Darrell Wallace
Wayne Wortham
Dr. David Roper
Harold Bonner
Kathy Green

Hon. Melody Baldwin
Hon. Richard Laird
Hon. Gerald Dial
Lithonia Wright
Sheriff Jeff Fuller
Chris Hardin
Stan Roarke
Tammy Holley
Kate Martin

Elaine Nelson
Harold Harmon
Hon. Charles Wright
C. L. Wilkes
Keith Marable
Clarence Hodges
Timothy Bert
Lucille Ward
Jimmy McCain



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

At risk youth will have greater opportunities to receive needed services

☐Transportation for after school programs. Make funding available to schools/private contractors for intervention programs/court referral for Anger Management/Drug and Alcohol and mentoring programs.

At-risk youth will have greater opportunities for success

☐Increased funding to establish an alternative school and programs for youth with discipline problems or court

referrals. Simplify funding process to make funds available.

Adjudicated youth have greater opportunity to receive rehabilitation and treatment to re-enter society.

☐Increase funding for detention/shelter bed spaces for evaluations and treatment of adjudicated youth or pre-hearing evaluations!

HEALTH

Births to Unmarried Teens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Collaboration between Health Department and DHR.
- ☐Collaboration between Health Department and schools.
- ☐Family Planning classes, exams, and birth control.

Adequate Health Insurance

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Collaboration between Health Department and DHR.
- ☐Collaboration between Health Department and Medicaid Representative.

Measures

- ☐Kids Count 2002 and Local Health Department.

Baseline: Reduce teen pregnancy from 11.5 % to 9 %. Rank 37 in state.

Goal: Instances of low birth weight babies drop 5 %.

☐Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Increase children receiving AFDC/TANF from 2.8 % to 5 %.

Goal: To raise Child Health Index to 60 %. Rank 43 in state.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐CD1, CD2

Explanation: Distribution of WIC info to all agencies!

☐FD8

Explanation: Easy access to insurance coverage.

☐FD6, PH6

Explanation: More intervention programs and abstinence-based programs.

SAFETY

Children living free from crime and drugs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Collaborate with agencies offering Drug and Alcohol abuse programs.
- ☐ Collaborate with education, law enforcement, parents, and referral programs.
- ☐ Collaborate with Advocacy Center, Safe House organizations, and DA office

Children living free from abuse and neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Collaborate with Advocacy Center and other agencies.
- ☐ Provide more Forensic investigators.
- ☐ Provide more Safe House bed spaces for battered women and victimized children.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Reduce drug and alcohol abuse from rate of 655.6. Rank 40 in state.

Goal: Continued decrease of drug and alcohol abuse.

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Reduce Court Referrals from rate of 865.4, rank 42 in state.

Goal: Lower rate from current year of 15 to 10.

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Reduce instances of abused and neglected children from rate of 8.3. Ranked 35 in state.

Goal: Lower instances of neglect and abuse from 8.3 to 6!

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ YD3, YD4

Explanation: Greater awareness of law/penalties! Because teens don't know or realize the penalties.

- ☐ YD3, YD4

Explanation: Increase public awareness of abuse and neglect! The public at large is still unaware of indicators, signs!

- ☐ FD2, FD3

Explanation: Enact better laws to track defendants! Many fall through cracks in the system!

EDUCATION

Children learning skills needed to become successful and productive citizens

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Implement tutoring programs after school!
- ☐ Implement peer support groups/peer/adult mentors!
- ☐ Schools collaborate with private providers (i.e. church based or secular organizations)

No child left behind!

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ More GED programs available!
- ☐ Lower dropout rate once students turn 16!
- ☐ More teachers' aides for one-on-one work!

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Fewer children failing courses from 18.6 %. Ranked 61 in state!

Goal: Reduce dropout rate to 14 %!

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Reduce number of children in poverty from 23.3 %. Ranked 43 in state!

Goal: Reduce vulnerable families from 22.8 % to 19 %.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ YD1, YD3, YD6, YD7

Explanation: More monies available for tutoring/mentoring! Need more intervention programs with access to funding!

- ☐ AD1, AD3; FD12, AD7, AD8, AD9

Explanation: Increase classroom 1-on-1 support! A lot of time is spent preparing student for tests - Not enough time for direct classroom instruction!

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children growing up in a financially stable home where their basic needs can be met

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Collaborate with agencies providing programs necessary for job training, life skills.
- ☐ Develop partnerships with industry and private sector for placement!
- ☐ Implement food banks, services through churches.

Children having basic needs met with AFDC/TANF

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Enroll children in entitlement programs to provide services and relief.
- ☐ Collaborate with county/state agencies providing these services for children.

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Reduce children in poverty from 23.3 %. Ranked 43 in state!

Goal: Reduce number of vulnerable families from 22.8 to 19 %.

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Increase children receiving AFDC/TANF from 2.8 %. Ranked 43 in state.

Goal: Increase number of children receiving from 2.8 to 5 %.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ ED1, ED2, ED3, ED9, ED11

Explanation: Easy access to more programs for skilled training! Kids lack motivation. The simpler the better!

- ☐ PH5, PH7

Explanation: Need state assistance/support for local agencies to establish food banks. Too difficult to access monies available for such programs.

- ☐ Collaborate between Mental Health and Education, DHR and Health Department to provide combined services!

Measures

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Decrease child death rate from 1 to 0! Ranked 32 in state!

Goal: Lower Infant Mortality Rate from 12.8 to 9! Ranked 53 in state!

- ☐ Kids Count 2002

Baseline: Decrease teen death rate from 1 to 0! Ranked 10 in state!

Goal: Reduce juvenile violent crime ranked 19 in state to 10!

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ CD1, CD2, CD3, CD4

Explanation: Increase early childhood programs for parents!

- ☐ PH5, PH7, PH9, PH10

Explanation: More assistance for parents to obtain services!

- ☐ ED3, ED4, OS2

Explanation: Transportation is a tremendous need in poor, rural counties statewide.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Children (0-5) provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, cognitively in order to succeed

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide services through collaborating agencies for children to receive necessary and proper care on all levels!

All children be afforded proper physical and mental health care necessary to succeed

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide more Mental Health services/facilities!
- ☐ Have more legislation to provide such facilities!

Russell County

Russell County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Eric B. Funderburk, Family Court Judge

Wanda Martin
Tom Spicer
Jonathan Davis
Linda Belcher
Elizabeth Connor
James Alexander
Lt. Jerry Bradford
Jeff Adams

Lee Henderson
Mike Suber
Connie King
Greg Waldrep
Leslie Vance
Gentry Lee
Sheriff Tommy Boswell
Hon. Mike Bellamy

Suzy Gunnels
Paula Thompson
Sgt. Frank Montroy
William Daniels
Pam Holton
Mattie Barnes-Arrington



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase 0-5 Early Care availability in the county

- ☐ Make Kindergarten mandatory.
- ☐ Give the Head Start program autonomy from Lee County program

Transportation of those in county/Availability of services

- ☐ Explore availability and needs of satellite of satellite offices and transportation programs.

Gather information and disseminate information on health and safety

- ☐ Survey children and parents of children in school.

HEALTH/SAFETY

Lack of information about health and safety needs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Gather information about what our children know (correct or incorrect)
- ☐ Survey children in school and parents of school-age children
- ☐ Child interviews at local agencies and schools

Disseminate appropriate information to our children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ School programs
- ☐ Designate an adult that children feel comfortable speaking to; not necessarily a teacher or social worker, but rather a teacher
- ☐ Create and distribute literature on important issues

Measures

- ☐ Children's knowledge of various health and safety issues

Baseline: We currently have no information on what our kids know

Goal: Complete surveys and interviews to see where our needs lie

EDUCATION

Drop out and truancy rates are too high

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Advertise the GED program available in your county
- ☐ Encourage parental involvement at younger ages
- ☐ Expand early care opportunities

Establish positive school behaviors at young ages (attendance, study skills, social skills)

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Expand Head Start Programs
- ☐ Encourage parental involvement at younger ages
- ☐ Create other early care opportunities

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Current drop out rate
- Goal:** A 50% long term reduction in dropout rate
- ☐ **Baseline:** Current number of Early Warning Truancy cases
- Goal:** A 50% long term reduction in cases
- ☐ **Baseline:** Current test scores
- Goal:** Increase test scores to at least national average

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Make K-5 (Kindergarten) attendance a state mandate
- ☐ Acquire autonomy for Russell County in the Head Start program. We are currently tied to Lee County and get overlooked

ECONOMIC SECURITY

As our county is quite rural outside of the main city, we need better resource availability for those in the county

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify current availability and needs
- ☐ Formulate solution based upon those needs
- ☐ Create satellite offices of major programs

Transportation of those in the county both for resources and employment possibilities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify current availability and needs
- ☐ Formulate solution based upon those needs
- ☐ Identify funding for the solution

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Current availability of resources in remote areas of county
- Goal:** Offer all necessary services through satellite offices
- ☐ **Baseline:** Current availability of transportation from county to city
- Goal:** Offer daily schedule of affordable transportation
- ☐ **Baseline:** Amount spent by county citizens on transportation to the city (cab fares, gas, etc.)
- Goal:** Reduction in said costs

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Creation of transportation system between county and city
- ☐ Creation of satellite offices

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Non existence of early care and education in the county

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create 0-3 program in the city
- ☐ Create Head Start program for rural areas of county
- ☐ Create Head Start program for Ladonia area

Current programs for early care and education cannot handle the demand

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase transportation opportunities to the Head Start locations
- ☐ Bring county programs under Russell County control, not Lee County

Measure:

- ☐ **Baseline:** No availability in city for 0-3
- Goal:** Full availability for 0-3 children
- ☐ **Baseline:** No Head Start program in Ladonia
- Goal:** Head Start program in Ladonia
- ☐ **Baseline:** No availability in county for 3-5
- Goal:** Full availability for 3-5 children

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Acquire autonomy for Russell County. We are currently tied to Lee County and get overlooked. Seek increased funding in Russell County

Shelby County

Shelby County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Patricia M. Smith, District Court Judge

There are well over 90 persons listed as members or friends of the Shelby County Children's Policy Council. For space reasons they are not listed here.



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Based Family Resource Center for families who are not DHR eligible will be made available

- ☐ Case management: case coordination across agencies, multiple services
- ☐ (Targeted case management, etc), assessment/referral and follow-up etc.
- ☐ Family Resource Center
- ☐ Outreach: home visiting; continuum of care, faith based initiatives etc
- ☐ Encourage community volunteerism, support legislation for changes in laws, support legislation for increase in funding etc
- ☐ Information distribution
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Community Awareness
- ☐ Adult Education, literacy: GED, evening/weekend school etc
- ☐ Job placement/support: job shadowing, mentoring, etc
- ☐ Increase effectiveness of Alabama State Children's Policy Council

Children and families will have transportation to access medical care and services such as education, job training and childcare

- ☐ Encourage community volunteerism, support legislation for changes in laws, support legislation for increase in funding etc
- ☐ Information distribution
- ☐ Transportation

Families with Children will have knowledge of and access to immunizations and health care

- ☐ Case Management
- ☐ Dental Care
- ☐ Family Planning
- ☐ Multiple Health Services
- ☐ Immunization
- ☐ Information Distribution
- ☐ Health Services School Based
- ☐ Community Education Awareness

HEALTH

Children in Shelby County will have needed transportation in order to receive necessary medical care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify service gaps for transportation.
- ☐ Research and secure funding
- ☐ Publicize need and outreach efforts
- ☐ Support legislative actions surrounding transportation

Families with Children in Shelby County will have knowledge of and access to immunizations and health care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Collaborate with the health department in efforts to immunize
- ☐ Work with local pediatricians
- ☐ Collaborate with Hispanic/ESL coalitions and other communities for education and shot dates and times
- ☐ Work in collaboration Shelby County Family Resource Center (once established) for events such as Tot Shots, Health Fairs etc.

- ☐ Increase accessibility for medical services for low income/diverse/English as Second Language (ESL) population
- ☐ Continue community information/outreach efforts for insurance availability for children

Measures

- ☐ Number of children ages 0-5 receiving WIC (Data Source: Shelby County Health Department)

Baseline: 1996 15,505
2002 17,800

Goal: 17,500

New Goal: 18,200

- ☐ Children's Health Fund Transportation Study of 2001 (Data Source, KID ONE)

Baseline: 2001 129 eligible riders currently enrolled with no cars or possible 3,197

Goal: Increase eligible KIDONE Riders by 1600

- ☐ Children's Health Index (Kids Count Data 2002)

Baseline: 68.2

Goal: 70

- ☐ Infant Mortality Rate (Kids County Data 2002)

Baseline: 9.5 deaths/1000

Goal: 5 deaths/1000

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Case Management; PH1
- ☐ Dental Care; PH2
- ☐ Family Planning; PH3
- ☐ Multiple Health Services; PH5
- ☐ Immunization of children living in Shelby County; PH7
- ☐ Information distribution (health care providers/public)
- ☐ Educate population regarding immunizations; PH 10
- ☐ Transportation of parents of hospitalized children; PH11
- ☐ Transportation; OS2
- ☐ Community Education Awareness; OS4

SAFETY

There will be a decrease in aggressive and violent behavior in Shelby County Schools and Communities

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase number of behavioral specialist in school
- ☐ Increase number and availability of parenting classes
- ☐ Increase number of service programs that provide alternative activities in the summer time for youth 12-21
- ☐ Increase opportunities for job training/placement for youth 16-21

There will be a decrease in drug and alcohol related offenses in juveniles

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work in collaboration with Shelby County Coalition for Drug Free Communities
- ☐ Increase number of drug awareness messages
- ☐ Increase number of tobacco-free zones
- ☐ Increase number of Safe Homes in Shelby County

Measures

- ☐ Number of Safe Homes Currently in Shelby County (Shelby County Coalition for Drug Free Communities)

Baseline: 100

Goal: 240

- ☐ Number of tobacco-free zones

Baseline:

Goal: To gather accurate data of number of tobacco-free zones within the county

- ☐ Number of juveniles detained (Data Source: Shelby County Juvenile Court Statistics maintained by Administrative office of the Courts)

Baseline: 1996 430
1997 545
1998 550
1999 722
2000 782
2001 723
2002 725

Goal: 700

- ☐ Offenses committed by juveniles involving alcohol or drugs (Data Source: Shelby County Juvenile Court Statistics maintained by Administrative office of the Courts)

Baseline: Number of juveniles charged with alcohol/drug offenses

DUI		Poss of Marijuana		Poss of Con Sub	
1996	14	1996	46	1996	16
1997	17	1997	71	1997	22
1998	24	1998	108	1998	17
1999	23	1999	63	1999	23
2000	18	2000	66	2000	24
2001	17	2001	58	2001	19
Goal	15	Goal	50	Goal	15
Actual	17	Actual	77	Actual	11
Goal	15	Goal	50	Goal	8

Public Intox		Minor in Poss of AI	
1996	9	1996	45
1997	21	1997	78
1998	51	1998	163
1999	25	1999	111
2000	25	2000	116
2001	33	2001	81
Goal	20	Goal	70
Actual	16	Actual	108
Goal	10	Goal	70

☐ Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (Data Source: Alabama Kids Count Data Book, 2001/2002- Voices of Alabama)

Baseline: Shelby County ranks 14th in incidences of juvenile violent crime Court Referral.

Goal:

Ranking of	18th
Actual	12th
Goal	5th

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Seek out Federal Funding to enhance Delinquency prevention/intervention: court services worker, school resource officer, anger management class, conflict resolution class, etc. YD3

☐ Make recommendations about national success programs in the area of Case management: case coordination across agencies, multiple services, assessment/referral and follow-up etc. YD2

☐ Seek out/ Recommend Funding for access to Summer program/camp for life skills development/recreation YD10

EDUCATION

Shelby County School attendance will increase

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Offer parenting classes that educate parents on preparing children for school, time management and consistency.

☐ Educate principles/counselors about the importance of attendance and consequences

☐ Require mandatory meeting between school and parents after 10 absences or tardiness to ensure consistency throughout the school system

☐ Hold K-12 parents accountable through court and early warning

Drop out rates for youth of Shelby County will decrease

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Collaboration with local agencies such as Campfire USA and Big Brother Big Sisters for education and training of volunteer mentors in each school system

☐ Collaboration with public agencies to create incentives for youth to stay in school

☐ Continue creating and enhancing alternative forms of education such as the Success program, FOCUS, etc.

Measures

Number of children referred for disciplinary action

(Data Source: Complaints/Petitions Fillings by Board of Education from Administrative records maintained by Juvenile Court)

Baseline: School Year

Truancy Complaints		Truancy Petitions	
1995-1996	149	1995-1996	16
1996-1997	1	1996-1997	1
1997-1998	115	1997-1998	8
1998-1999	58	1998-1999	9
1999-2000	145	1999-2000	11
2000-2001	166	2000-2001	10
2001-2002	268	2001-2002	5

Ungovernable Complaints		Ungovernable Petitions	
1995-1996	76	1995-1996	3
1996-1997	84	1996-1997	12
1997-1998	66	1997-1998	14
1998-1999	41	1998-1999	10
1999-2000	92	1999-2000	8
2000-2001	90	2000-2001	11
2001-2002	83	2001-2002	12

2002 Goals: The population of Shelby County is rising

Truancy Complaints	260
Truancy Pet.	4
Ungov. Comp.	80
Ungovernable Petitions	10

2003 Goals

Truancy Complaints	220
Truancy Petition.	2
Ungovernable Comp	75
Ungovernable Petitions	8

☐ Shelby County Dropout Rate

Baseline: 2002 13.55% rank in state 6th

Goal: Create a more accurate retrieval of data and definition

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ Make recommendations about national success programs in Truancy prevention/intervention: attendance follow-up, absentee monitoring etc. AD6

☐ Seek to change state policy that mandates Parent involvement/participation AD3

☐ Student support/assist AD4

☐ Seek/ Recommend Funding for Summer program/camp for academic enhancement AD5

☐ Youth Mentoring: peer to peer, adult to youth, male-to-male etc. YD6

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Shelby County Children will grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Locate appropriate places to provide applications for Food Stamps, WIC, ALL KIDS, etc. and purchase display stands in which to place applications
- ☐ Make Food Stamp, WIC and ALL KID Applications available in all public & social service agencies
- ☐ Establish a family resource center.
- ☐ Work in collaboration with DHR (welfare to work initiative) and Shelby County Career Center
- ☐ Pursue more readily available transportation through CLAS TRANS

Shelby County youth will develop essential career skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Expand number of youth the Youth Development Coordinator makes contact with.
- ☐ Survey of employees for entry level positions, through collaboration with Shelby County High Schools and the Greater Shelby County Chamber
- ☐ Target programs such as The DAY Program, Success Program and Juvenile Court providing information and training regarding services and eligibility for youth.
- ☐ Form committee to formulate a comprehensive Youth Development program including job shadowing, job skills/training, GED preparation, in compliance with WIA directions
- ☐ Ensure career center tracks referral information
- ☐ Pursue more readily available transportation through CLAS TRANS

Homeless children and families will have a support system within Shelby County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Work in collaboration with local agencies and school systems to educate on resources available within the county.
- ☐ Establish a family resource center for Shelby County.
- ☐ Continue to explore possibilities through grants and agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, HUDD and Salvation Army as well as faith based organizations such as Shelby County Baptist Association.

Measures

- ☐ Number of Youth participating in Job Training Program at the Career Center in Shelby County
Baseline: 91 (7/1/2001 - 6/30/2002)
Goal: 150 New Goal: 100
- ☐ Number of homeless children (any child without a fixed regular adequate night time residence) (Data Source: Shelby County Schools)

Baseline: 1997- 1998 school year - 178
1998- 1999 school year - 182
1999- 2000 school year - 180
2000- 2001 school year - 198
2001- 2002 school year - 200

- ☐ Number of referrals to Shelby County Family Resource Center

Baseline: To be developed

Goal: Track numbers of referrals & services provided to families and youth

- ☐ Number of referrals to Child Find to track homeless children in county

Baseline: To be developed

Goal: Track number of referrals and sources of referrals

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Develop a program to be used state wide for Case management: case coordination across agencies, multiple services
(Targeted case management, etc), assessment/referral and follow-up etc. YD2
- ☐ Seek Federal Funding for Family Resource Center FD3
- ☐ Outreach: home visiting: continuum of care, faith based initiatives etc FD5, OS5
- ☐ Encourage community volunteerism, support legislation for changes in laws, support legislation for increase in funding etc FD12
- ☐ Information distribution YD4
- ☐ Increase Funding for Transportation OS2
- ☐ Community Awareness OS4
- ☐ Adult Education, literacy: GED, evening/weekend school etc ED1
- ☐ Job placement/support: job shadowing, mentoring, etc ED, ED9
- ☐ Increase effectiveness of Alabama State Children's Policy Council OS5

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Community Based Family Resource Center for all families with a focus on families with children ages 0-5

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Research, establish and create Family Resource Center for Shelby County
- ☐ Identify funding resources
- ☐ Make resources available to all families in Shelby

County

- ☐ Ensure that bilingual services (brochures, classes, etc.) will serve ESL families and communities at large.
- ☐ Increase collaborative efforts among all agencies/groups serving families and children less than 6 years of age around common needs, public awareness, advocacy, legislation and collaborative grantsmanship.
- ☐ Increase resources for birth to six services in high-risk communities.
- ☐ Raise public awareness about the early years/developmental stages of 0-5

All Children in Shelby County will have access to quality early care and education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify services gaps for transportation
- ☐ Convene round table of all transportation providers to discuss partnership
- ☐ Identify funding resources
- ☐ Coordinate routes within cities
- ☐ Develop strategic plan to fill identified gaps
- ☐ Continue to provide parent training opportunities (parenting classes) through community based classes and additional in-home programs for at-risk parents that focus on developmentally appropriate activities for children
- ☐ Encourage licensing of all Child Care Programs
- ☐ Continue to partner with the Alabama Partnership for children to provide providers scholarships for further educational opportunities.
- ☐ Explore extend hours for childcare facilities
- ☐ Work in collaboration with Head Start, Early Head Start, United Way of Central Alabama Success by 6, Eclipse, and Alabama Partnership for Children
- ☐ Increase resources for birth to six services in high-risk communities.
- ☐ Raise public awareness about the early years/developmental stages of 0-5
- ☐ Locate funding to help low income families to pay for childcare.
- ☐ Continue advocacy for the hiring of quality care providers in early education settings.
- ☐ Identify services accessible to ESL families

Measures

☐ School enrollment (Source US Bureau of Census 2000/ DHR/ SCBOE)

Baseline:

10,718 children under age of 5,
2,612 children in poverty
192 Children are enrolled in Eclipse
182/month average Children served by
Child Care Subsidy Program FY2002

Goal:

- ☐ First Grade Retention

Baseline: To be determined

Goal: To create accurate retrieval of data

☐ Number of participating T.E.A.C.H programs

Baseline: In 2002 4 cities/ centers participated in T.E.A.C.H with 6 teachers enrolled. (Alabaster 2, Calera 1, Chelsea 2, Pelham 1)

Goal: Increase by 50%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Increase Funding for Transportation: OS2
- ☐ Community education/awareness OS4
- ☐ Early Childhood education CD3
- ☐ Early Intervention CD2
- ☐ Seek Federal Funding for Family childcare: subsidies, slot expansion, quality improvement etc CD5
- ☐ Information distribution: newborn packet, services/resource directory, etc CD6

St. Clair County

St. Clair County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. James E. Hill, Jr., Juvenile Court Judge

Jeanette Wadsworth	Zeva Hatcher	Melinda Thomas
Melanie Chatta	Linda Walls	Amber Church
Randy Jones	Deborah Davis	Brandi Alexander
Susan Hood	Holly Jaap	Amanda Johnson
Marie Manning	Sally Albis	Dionna Dempsey
Dr. Donna Nicholson	Beverly Francis	Lee McElwain
Joseph T. Funderburg	Scott Kearley	Tim Dolland
Doris Stubblefield	Mitzi Droxler	Alan Dodson
Van. W. Davis	Deborah Hallmark	Randy Mason
Rep. Dave Thomas	Lydia Cater	Scott Bonk
Rep. Blaine Galliher	Stacey Payne	Barbara Pitts
Sen. Jack Biddle	Pam Hendrick	Hope Skelton
Sen. Larry Means	Janet Jones	Sharon Mintz
Stanley Batemon	Mary Lou Street	Karen Davis
Terry Surles	Lori Dark-Bishop	
David Gray	Roy Forman	



HEALTH

St. Clair County will provide access to appropriate health/mental health services for the children and youth

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Establish a guide for available health/mental health resources for family, marital, and individual counseling through community non-profit as well as private and faith-based programs.
- ☐ Collaborate on one county wide health awareness campaign during the next year to include mental health, oral health, nutrition, alcohol/tobacco/drug abuse, sexual health and physical health.
- ☐ Promote health care coverage programs (ALL Kids, Medicaid, Child Caring Program) so that children can receive early, appropriate, and comprehensive health care services.
- ☐ Seek funding for Summer Nutrition programs and/or after school nutrition programs.
- ☐ Seek funding opportunities for matching grants to provide in school mental health services for St. Clair County school system.

The children and youth in St. Clair County will have a reduction in risk taking behaviors.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide education/prevention programs regarding alcohol and street drugs.
- ☐ Provide education/prevention programs on sexually transmitted diseases and cancer development risks.
- ☐ Provide education/prevention/cessation programs on tobacco usage.

Measures

- ☐ Reduce the juvenile substance abuse arrest rate in St. Clair County from 22 to 11.
- ☐ Decrease the number of preventable teen deaths in St. Clair County from 4 to 0.
- ☐ Decrease the rate of low birth weight babies in St. Clair County from 9.8% to 9.0%.
- ☐ Decrease rate of births to unmarried teens in St. Clair County from 7.1% to 6.0%.
- ☐ Increase enrollment of St. Clair County children in AllKids and Medicaid by 10%.
- ☐ Increase the number of school health personnel (social workers and nurses) in schools in St. Clair County.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Partner with Public Health and the Dept of Education to promote a progressive education program that includes nutrition, obesity, dental health, and exercise for all children from Kindergarten through grade three; PH 3
- ☐ Provide funding to increase the number of school nurses; PH6
- ☐ Provide funding for social workers in schools to address mental health issues; MH , MH2, AD9
- ☐ Provide adequate funding for Medicaid and CHIP program so that children can continue to be enrolled as needed; CD6
- ☐ Provide funding for establishment of after school

program to include nutrition and physical activity; PH10,
☐Expand funding for family planning and abstinence
based programs targeting teens; PH3, PH10, OS4

SAFETY

Children of Domestic Violence - Promoting services to address the needs of children who experience domestic violence in their homes

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐To adopt articles of incorporation as a nonprofit to enable the council to pursue funding opportunities for the development of programs for children of domestic violence.
- ☐To assist in the development of "Kids in Crisis", a group for children who have experienced domestic violence, to lessen the negative effects of their life experiences.
- ☐Recommend judicial referral of age appropriate children to the group as a part of the disposition of any court action.
- ☐Promote the dissemination of information about the group throughout the county to promote awareness of the issue and encourage referral of children to the group.

Adolescent Safety - Promoting a decrease in the risk taking behaviors of adolescents through education in life issues.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐To adopt articles of incorporation as a nonprofit to enable the council to pursue funding for educational materials and groups for adolescents.
- ☐To develop an educational group for adolescents to increase their decision making skills in an attempt to lessen the risk taking behaviors of all adolescents.
- ☐Seek the support of both Boards of Education to allow either allow group development in the school setting or promote referrals to the group.
- ☐Promote the dissemination of information about the group throughout the county to promote awareness of the issue and encourage referrals to the group.

Child Abuse and Neglect - Promoting a decrease in the number of children who are

abused and neglected thorough support groups for parents

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐To adopt articles of incorporation as a nonprofit to enable the council to pursue funding for the development of a support group for parents.
- ☐To develop an ongoing support group for parents to enable them to reinforce the skills learned from participation in other services and programs such as intervention programs and parenting classes.
- ☐Promote the dissemination of information about the group to encourage referrals for all parents who need support in discharging their responsibilities to their children.

Measures

- ☐**Baseline:** In 2002, there were 383 women who were victims of domestic violence in St. Clair County.
- ☐**Goal:** Reduce the number of victims of domestic violence by 5%.
- ☐**Baseline:** The 2002 Alabama Kids Count reported 62 births to unmarried teens, juvenile substance abuse court referrals of 30, juvenile violent crime court referral rate of 28 and 4 preventable teen deaths.
- ☐**Goal:** Reduce each of the above instances by 5%.
- ☐**Baseline:** The 2002 Alabama Kids Count reported 145 children with an indication of abuse or neglect.
- ☐**Goal:** Reduce the number of children with an indication of abuse or neglect by 5%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐Fund a coordinator for county policy councils to enable each council to pursue funding for programs to meet the needs identified in each individual county; YD1, YD3, YD7, YD8, YD10, FD2, FD6, FD8, FD11, FD12, MH7
- ☐Provide increase information and guidance in funding availability for the development of programs to address identified needs; YD1, YD3, YD7, YD8, YD10, FD2, FD6, FD8, FD11, FD12, MH7

EDUCATION

Drop Out Rate - Improving the Success Rate of Children in School in St. Clair County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐Recommend earlier screening for potential learning disabilities and giftedness.

- ❑ Encourage parental involvement with their children and school
- ❑ Mobilize volunteers to assist tutoring with children having difficulties in school
- ❑ Increase the presence of case managers in schools to evaluate children and their needs which may effect their success in school
- ❑ Advocate a tracking system for children who are home schooled
- ❑ Advocate abstinence program in middle school whose parents permit participations.
- ❑ Advocate for teen pregnancy programs and make all appropriate referrals as needed.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Advocate volunteers to assist with reading programs in school both elementary and high school.
- ❑ Encourage voting for officials who support funding for Alabama Education.
- ❑ Advocate obtaining GED and/or completion of High School Diploma
- ❑ Encourage increased parental involvement with children and their education.
- ❑ Advocate summer reading programs
- ❑ Advocate AL Reading Initiative participation by local schools.
- ❑ Enable school personnel to recognize signs of parental illiteracy.
- ❑ Enable school personnel to recognize parents with limited English Proficiency and guide them toward appropriate resources.

Measures

- ❑ Improve number of students reaching statewide benchmark reading levels by 2% yearly.
- ❑ Decrease the projected drop out rate among children in St. Clair County by 2% yearly.
- ❑ Identify all children who do not have the basic early literacy skills in place by Kindergarten and begin effective intervention.
- ❑ All Children should master basic reading skills by end of third grade.
- ❑ All children who are not mentally challenged in St. Clair County should receive a diploma from high school, a GED, or complete a vocational training program.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Fund early childhood education programs; CD3
- ❑ Fund early identification and intervention programs to discover disabilities and problems at an early age; CD2
- ❑ Fund case managers for schools; YD2
- ❑ Promote parental involvement; YD7
- ❑ Develop a tracking system for children who are home schooled to make sure learning is standardized - a "checks and balances" method; YD11

- ❑ Children dropping out of school should not be an option some changes in the laws may be needed as an incentive for all children not mentally challenged to receive a high school diploma, a GED, or complete a vocational training program; AD1, FD12
- ❑ Provide resource programs at schools for teens who want to complete their education; CD3, CD4
- ❑ Properly fund Alabama Reading Initiative; CD3

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children receiving AFDC/TANF - Improving Support Systems for Families in St. Clair County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continue to improve Child Support Collection through agency efforts and increased community awareness.
- ❑ Improve employability of custodial parents through increased referral for assessment and basic skills training.
- ❑ Improve transportation for AFDC/TANF recipients through a coordinated effort involving volunteers, agencies, and business.
- ❑ Increase and improve network of volunteer services that includes mentoring, job shadowing, modeling of appropriate parenting, etc.

Children in Poverty - Improving the Economic Security of Families in St. Clair County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ The percentage of children living in poverty correlates with the school dropout rate. Reduce school dropout rate by increasing commitment to school through mentoring, parental involvement, tutoring, etc.
- ❑ Develop and support a direct relationship between industry and vocational training in St. Clair County (apprenticeships, cooperative learning, on the job training, etc.).
- ❑ Encourage all agencies to notify their clients about WIC (food assistance for children 0 - 5, if income eligible).
- ❑ Advocate for social workers in all schools in St. Clair County to evaluate and make appropriate referrals for children and families in need.
- ❑ Increase participation in free and reduced cost meal program for children and teens that are income eligible in St. Clair County Schools.

Measures

- ❑ Child support collection rate.

Baseline: FY02 \$2,104,952.64

Goal: Improve the child support collection rate in St. Clair County by 10%.

☐Referrals of AFDC/TANF recipients for employability training

Baseline:

Goal: Increase number of referrals of AFDC/TANF recipients to Pell City Career Link by 10%.

☐Existence of transportation proposal.

Baseline: N/A

Goal: Develop a proposal to improve transportation of AFDC/TANF recipient to include; volunteers, agencies, and businesses (model after programs such as KID One).

☐School dropout rate (projection)

Baseline: Projected dropout rate 20% (Alabama Kids Count Data Book 2002)

Goal: Improve school dropout rate in St. Clair County from 20 % to 15%.

☐Existence of partnership between business and education

Baseline: N/A

Goal: Develop a written plan to create a partnership between business and education.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐Publicize AllKids, Chips, Medicaid, and WIC programs and enrollment statewide more vigorously; CD6

☐Provide funding for case managers (social workers) for schools; MH2

☐Improve male involvement in pregnancy prevention programs and their economic accountability to the family in which they have fathered a child to improve the income level of single families (the issue of fathering more than one child by different mothers at the same time should not be a status symbol or something to brag about); FD&, FD9

☐Partner with Board of Education to provide better information on job skills, and especially career planning; motivational programs to keep kids in school; ED7, AD1

☐More affordable childcare options for single parents who want to work; ED3

☐Develop partnerships/cooperative with individuals, businesses and industry to mentor teens age 16 and older and train them to work; ED11, YD6

☐Funding childcare programs at high schools for teens with children who want to stay in school. Include teaching parenting skills; FD6, ED3

☐Encourage legislation requiring responsibility for parents of juveniles who father a child or become pregnant to be financial responsible for the child; FD12

☐Increase number of child support workers; FD1

☐Encourage community volunteerism; ED8, FD12

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The Children's Policy Council will work to improve the Early Care of children in St. Clair County

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Work to raise awareness among all agencies dealing with high risk families to intervene before a crisis occurs

☐Encourage parenting and safety classes

☐Encourage school nurses to identify teens quickly who are pregnant and refer for case management and prenatal care

☐Monitor infant death review for St. Clair County

☐Encourage family planning programs for individuals who do not want a pregnancy or those at high risk of pregnancy with complications

☐Certify 10 individuals as Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPS)

☐Implement three one day car seat safety check-up events through out St. Clair County

☐Initiate research toward beginning a car seat distribution program in St. Clair County

St. Clair County will provide Early Education Programs

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Encourage agencies with 501 (c)(3) to apply for grant funding and write letters of support

☐Encourage teen mothers who are eligible to apply for TANF to provide for daycare services

☐Refer to "Bear Facts" program at The Children's Place all that are eligible

☐Encourage family planning for those teens who are sexually active

☐Encourage school nurses to identify those teens who are eligible for these programs and make appropriate referrals as quickly as possible

☐Encourage case management services for "at risk" families

☐Recommend day care provision at schools for teens who desire to complete their education

☐Acquire funding for re-establishment of Even Start in St. Clair County

Measures

☐Decrease the rate of infant mortality in St. Clair County from 9.1% to 8%.

☐Decrease the Child Death Rate number in St. Clair County from 3 to 0.

☐Provide funding for Even Start Programs.

☐Decrease the 1st grade retention from 10.4% to 7.2%.

☐Decrease pregnancy rates for unmarried teens from 7.1% to less than 6%.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Provide funding for case managers (social workers) in schools; MH12
- ☐ Guarantee funding for Bear Facts; CD2
- ☐ Acquire funding for daycare and parenting skills program at school for Teens who want to complete their education; CD3, CD4
- ☐ Increase funding for family planning programs to decrease the number of Teen and unplanned pregnancies; PH3, PH5
- ☐ Provide funding to increase the number of school nurses; PH6
- ☐ Provide funding for the establishment of a car seat safety training and distribution program; OS2, OS4

Sumter County

Sumter County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Tammy J. Montgomery, District Court Judge

Vannessa F. Bibbs
Delores Cook
Gail Fitch
Ronald Rollins
Febreu Holston
Christopher Spencer
Shirley Carter



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Making school campuses safe learning environments

☐ Expand drug intervention and prevention programs, mock trials and National Law Day Essay Contest, to include a voluntary drug test.

Reducing births among teenagers

☐ Collaborate with Board of Education nurse and health department nurse family partnership to focus on,

encouraging teens to delay sexual activity until educational, economic and emotional maturity have been achieved

Formation of all alliance between regional policy councils

☐ Pooling ideas and the resources of regional policy councils will yield greater benefits for at-risk youth

HEALTH

Adequate health insurance coverage for children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Educate parents through church, school meeting and notices send home about Medicaid and AllKids insurance
- ☐ Coordinate the attendance of AllKids Insurance providers at child support court to confer with parents.
- ☐ Broadcast Public Service announcements on local radio regarding AllKids insurance

Decreasing births to unmarried teenagers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Fostering input from local health departments prenatal and early childhood programs
- ☐ Collaborate with school system nurse
- ☐ Collaborate with nurse family partnership to discourage second birth to unmarried teenager

Measures

☐ **Baseline:** Initially enroll Head Start 3-5 year olds

that do not currently have insurance coverage

Goal: Enroll all county children that do not currently have health insurance coverage

☐ **Baseline:** Decrease the reported percentage of births to high school seniors by 30 from health departments records

Goal: Eliminate births to graduating seniors

☐ **Baseline:** Delaying sexual activity among teenagers

Goal: Eliminate births to teens in Sumter County

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ **Explanation:** Family planning

☐ **Explanation:** Information distribution

☐ **Explanation:** Outreach: site visit to enroll children

SAFETY

Making School campuses safe learning environments

Policy Council Action Steps

☐ Focus on developing a mentoring program at the Alternative School initially, then each other school

- ❑Expand National Law Day activities to elementary/junior high schools which provides a forum to discuss laws relevant to children
- ❑Expand network with Board of Education, each school's counselor, truancy officer to educate them regarding law affecting children.

Detering youth drug use

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Continue the Mock trials: Drugs & Guns are out! Trials & Poster; Contest drug intervention program for all 5th graders that are held at county courthouse which involves local judges, prosecutors
- ❑Collaborate with Board of Education to establish drug intervention program such as a voluntary drug testing program with each school
- ❑Advocate the hiring of a mental health professional for children at the local mental health agency to counsel children who are failing, that have a discipline problem or who have been adjudicated by the court

Measures

- ❑**Baseline:** Inform youth regarding the criminal liability related to their age, activity, or inactivity
- Goal:** Eliminate crime on school campus
- ❑**Baseline:**
- Goal:** Persuading youth not to use or get involved with drugs
- ❑**Baseline:** Enroll & test 50% of junior high school and high school students countywide
- Goal:** Institute voluntary drug testing programs at each school

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑**Explanation:** Alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention/intervention
- ❑**Explanation:** Individual counseling: full-time mental health professional for children should be employed
- ❑**Explanation:** Information distribution: advise children regarding relevant laws affecting them

EDUCATION

Promote reading skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Collaborate with Board of Education to secure volunteers to read to elementary school students
- ❑Recommend to Board of Education that reading should be added to the high school curriculum

- ❑Secure corporate funding for reading materials for each elementary schools

Nurturing at risk students in a learning environment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Develop a mentoring program for alternative school students
- ❑Collaborate with Board of Education, District Attorney's Office and Juvenile Court to develop truancy intervention program
- ❑Monitor and reward positive behavior changes of children with discipline problems in conjunction with each school principal and staff/ "Most Improved Student Award"

Measures

- ❑**Baseline:** Collaborate with Board of Education to recruit volunteers to assist children with reading problems
- Goal:** Teach every child how to read
- ❑**Baseline:** Develop a reading competition within each grade level
- Goal:** Increase the reading proficiency level of each child
- ❑**Baseline:** Decrease the reported percentage of truancy cases by 30%
- Goal:** Prevent truancy within the school system

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑**Explanation:** Mentoring: adult to youth, male to male, etc.
- ❑**Explanation:** Parent/volunteer involvement/participation
- ❑**Explanation:** Case management: coordination, assessment/referral and follow-up, etc.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Preparing families for independence from welfare

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑Establishing a resource center to address the needs of children and their families such as poverty and disease of children and their families such as poverty and disease
- ❑Providing scholarships for at-risk but academically inclined high school graduates that attend a college
- ❑Network with Easter Seals West Alabama to obtain jobs for unemployed and underemployed parents

Jobless rate in the Black Belt, Sumter County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continue partnership with job coach provided by Easter Seals West Alabama
- ❑ Maintain parenting classes which encourage unemployed parents to become job seekers by raising their self esteem and self worth
- ❑ Address concerns of jobless rate to Congressman and legislators

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Obtaining jobs for 70% of non-custodial parents with child support court order
- ❑ **Goal:** Eliminating the jobless rate of non-custodial parents in Sumter County
- ❑ **Baseline:** Providing (2) scholarships for at-risk high school students that complete the first year of college with a "B" overall average and or financially needy
- ❑ **Goal:** Assist financially needy at-risk high school students that show academic process during their first year of college

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ *Explanation: Job training and placement support/multiple services program*
- ❑ *Explanation: Emergency assistance: temporary aid, food, clothing, etc.*
- ❑ *Explanation: Other: Business/industry partnership*

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Countywide Enrollment of 3-5 year olds at Head Start

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Appeal to parents to enroll children through newsletter, "Resolutions"
- ❑ Distribute newsletter to churches
- ❑ Provide clothing for needy children and family members

Expanded center-based programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Provide speakers for in-service program regarding family violence and child abuse
- ❑ Provide volunteer to offer services to centers
- ❑ Refer in-home mental health professional to centers

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Maintain 100% of currently enrolled 3 and 4 year olds
- ❑ **Goal:** Enrollment of all 3-5 year olds in Head Start
- ❑ **Baseline:** Continue to provide clothing to families that are identified by each center
- ❑ **Goal:** Impact a child's self-esteem by providing clothing
- ❑ **Baseline:** Educating child care professionals about early signs of child abuse
- ❑ **Goal:** Preventing family violence and child abuse

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ *Explanation: Early Intervention*
- ❑ *Explanation: Information distribution*
- ❑ *Explanation: Center based childcare*

Talladega County

Talladega County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Tommy R. Dodson, Juvenile Court Judge

Nancy T. Buckner
Carole T. Bailey
Dr. Larry Morris
Charon Douglass
Ann Cunningham
Jonathan Davis
Patrick Henry
Patricia Patterson
Cayla Lackey
Corp. Tommy Laird
Mike Reese
Dr. Peggy Connell
Dr. T. Larry Thacker

Dr. Phil Hammonds
Beverly M. Smith
Mitzi J. Ford
Jane Haney
Steve D. Giddens
Rep. Ron Johnson
Sen. Jim Preuitt
Rep. Steve Hurst
Hon. John F. Carter
Sheriff Jerry Studdard
Hon. George N. Sims
Hon. Clarence E. Haynes
Hon. Jimmy Roberson

Hon. Billy Atkinson
Hon. Gary Carter
Sally Bowers
Robert L. Rumsey
Betty C. Simmons
Laura C. Dalton
George Graham
Margaret Morton
DeAnn Floyd
Joe Allen
Rita Brantley
Erminel Love
Rene' Breland



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Health - Access to physical and mental health and dental care

☐ All children will have access to adequate health and dental care.

Safety - Children (Birth to 19 years of age) in Talladega County will grow up safe and free from abuse and/or neglect

☐ Council will meet on regular basis to review and address safety issues in Talladega County.

Early Care and Education

Education - Combination of issues of Graduation rate, Regular School Attendance and Family Involvement

☐ Development, continuation and / or implementation of programs that promote success for these three main issues.

Economic Security - Adult Literacy and Employability Skills

☐ Create awareness to have community business leaders understand the link between children's issues and economic development and to have them to become committed to improving the lives of children.

HEALTH

Access to physical and mental health and dental care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Development and implementation of comprehensive management system to assure that each child is able to be physically and mentally well.
- ☐ Establishment of free dental clinic with Talladega County Health Department.
- ☐ Applying for federal grant to support to co-locating of free primary health care clinics with the Talladega County Health Department (Talladega) and in renovating the Pursell Building in Sylacauga.
- ☐ Work with local mental health providers to try to get services in a more timely manner.
- ☐ Development and implementation for the education, outreach and navigation of the system's health programs

for the uninsured and the underinsured.

- ☐ Continue to promote enrollment in the CHIP program.
- ☐ Development of a county resource committee to act as a safety net for children.

Teen pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Development program for professionals in the community to go into schools to teach abstinence, making correct life choices, prevention and consequences.
- ☐ Every school system have a school nurse and social worker.
- ☐ Expand programs offered through the Talladega County Health Department with the addition of a Community Development Specialist.
- ☐ Expand and support the Fatherhood Initiative Parenting Intervention and Health Care Initiative Programs.

Chronic disease in children: diabetes, asthma, hypertension, and depression

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Identify a network of referral resources for education and support of families with children who have chronic diseases.
- ☐ Utilize the Parish Nurse Program for support of children with chronic diseases.
- ☐ Parent education in elementary schools to prevent diabetes and hypertension.

Measures

- ☐ Child Health Index, Kid's Count, 2001
Baseline: 50.8% County rate - 58th in State
Goal: To have a decrease in births of infants with risk factors.
- ☐ Births to Unmarried Teens, Kid's Count, 2001
Baseline: 14.6% County rate - 51st in State
Goal: To decrease rate of teen pregnancy.
- ☐ Project HEAL
Baseline: No statistical data available at this time, but Talladega County has Alabama's 4th highest death rate, with Heart Disease, Cancer, Diabetes and Stroke being the leading causes of death.
Goal: To increase the accessibility of health care to the indigent, and to increase the rate of those having a medical home.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Need School Nurses and School Social Workers; PH6
- ☐ Develop state-level management system; PH3
Explanation: To allow state agencies to communicate and collaborate
- ☐ Support for outreach programs; FD1, FD3, FD5, FD6, FD7, FD8, FD9, FD12
Explanation: Funding and expansion of programs (Fatherhood Initiative, Health Care Initiatives - for example)
- ☐ Need for additional mental health services in the county; MH3, MH6

SAFETY

Children (birth to 19 years of age) in Talladega County will grow up safe and free from abuse and/or neglect

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Meet regularly to review and address safety issues in Talladega County.
- ☐ Council will identify and evaluate existing resources in meeting children's safety needs.
- ☐ Council will seek out, develop and support resources to establish new programs to meet children's safety needs.
- ☐ Support expansion of the Turning Point Program.
- ☐ Advocate for School Social Workers and School Interventionists.
- ☐ Expansion of early intervention substance abuse programs.
- ☐ Develop county wide substance programs for families and children in Talladega County.

Children (birth to 19 years of age) in Talladega County will grow up safe and free from domestic violence

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Meet regularly to review and address safety issues in Talladega County in domestic violence cases.
- ☐ Council will identify and evaluate existing resources in meeting children's safety needs relating to domestic violence.
- ☐ Council will seek out, develop and support resources to establish new programs to meet children's safety needs in domestic violence.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Alabama Kid's Count 2002 (Children with indicated reports of abuse and / or neglect) - 8.2% County rate, 40th in State
- Goal:** Council seeks to educate partners, families and individuals and improve resources to prevent child abuse / neglect thus reducing number of indicated reports.
- ☐ **Baseline:** October, 2001 through September, 2002 - Domestic Violence complaints as filed through Law Enforcement in Talladega County with one or more children in the home.
- Goal:** Council seeks to improve resources and services to families of domestic violence such that the incidents and complaints are reduced.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Local Governing Policy Council endorsement is required for any and all projects being re-authorized or new program funds being authorized; OS5
Explanation: This group is composed of professionals and community partners, in a position to know what is needed and avoid any duplication of services.
- ☐ Statewide commitment to Children's Issues; OS5

Explanation: This group would work to establish children a priority in all areas in the State of Alabama.

☐Statewide commitment for Drug Treatment programs and funding; FD12

Explanation: Child abuse / neglect issues and domestic violence issues are directly correlated with this societal problem.

☐Statewide support for additional resources for anger management and conflict resolution among youth; MH7, AD4, YD1, YD3

EDUCATION

Graduation Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Continue to implement the Work Force Investment Act.

☐Implement individualized tutorial software programs and make available to all students in Talladega County.

☐Develop non-traditional alternative educational opportunities.

☐Design tutorial and remedial programs.

☐Communicate opportunities available for tutorial and remedial programs.

☐Support the implementation of the Alabama Adult Alternate Diploma.

☐Provide access to Alabama on-line high school courses.

☐Encourage participation in Alabama Reading Initiative.

☐Provide preparation opportunities through adult education for Alabama High School Graduation Exam.

☐Collaborate and support resources of Family Service Centers and local literacy initiatives.

☐Provide career awareness opportunities. (Job shadowing, apprenticeship and mentoring programs)

☐Develop on-line resource manual of community agencies.

☐Encourage growth and participation in career/tech program.

Regular school attendance

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Promote School Social Workers/Interventionists

☐Promote School Nurses

☐Develop partnerships with community agencies to provide resources and support services. (Dept. Human Resources, Mental Health Center, Family Services Centers, etc)

☐Provide peer mentoring and positive support opportunities.

☐Advocate for more flexibility in use of state funds.

☐Support involvement in extracurricular activities. (Make extracurricular activities more accessible to at-risk students)

Family Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Develop models for enhancing family involvement.

☐Promote School Interventionists

☐Support grants for programs to address family involvement.

☐Provide opportunities for more student activities.

☐Create new ways to communicate regularly with parents.

Measures

☐Dropout Rates

Baseline Data: Projected 4 - Year Dropout Rate (The percent of students in the 9th grade in 2001-2002 who are projected to leave school prior to graduation in 2003)

2001-2002 State Dept. of Ed. Report Card:

Talladega County 14.20%

Goal: To increase the percentage of students that complete graduation requirements.

☐Graduation Exam Passage Rate

Baseline Data: State Dept. of Education Graduation Exam Data.2002-03

2001-2002 State Dept. of Ed. Report Card:

Talladega County 87.3%

Goal: To increase the percentage of students that pass the Graduation Exam.

☐Average Daily Attendance (The percent of students that attend school each day.)

Baseline Data: State Dept. of Ed. Report Card. 2001-2002

Talladega County 97.7%

Goal: To increase the annual percentage of attendance for schools in Talladega County.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐Tax reform with flexibility of funding (community based); FD 12

☐Provide Sufficient State funding for the Alabama Reading and Math Initiative; AD7, AD8, AD9

Explanation: As each local school system is financially burdened with meeting the mandatory requirements, state funding would make this program more readily available to all students.

☐Provide Additional Support Services; MH6, PH6, YD3, AD6, AD9

Explanation: Professional Counselors, School Nurses, Social Workers

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Adult Illiteracy

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Create greater availability of Adult Education programs.
- ❑ Expand business coalition to promote participation of employees in literacy programs.
- ❑ Create working relationship and partner with community businesses to commit to goal of becoming "family friendly".

Employability skills (job skills and work ethic)

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Create working relationship and partner with community businesses to commit to goal of becoming "family friendly".
- ❑ Host a meeting of county businesses and stakeholders to promote children's issues. Partnership should lead to business leaders understanding the link between children and family issues and economic development.
- ❑ Business and community leaders should become committed to improving the lives of children.

Measures

- ❑ Children in Poverty, Kid's Count, 2001
Baseline: 27.6% County rate - 41st in State
Goal: To decrease number of children living in poverty.
- ❑ Children receiving AFDC / TANF, Kid's Count, 2001
Baseline: 13.6% County rate - 46th in State
Goal: To increase the employment of parents, which would enable them to not have to rely on the welfare system for support.
- ❑ Unemployment rate, Talladega County
Baseline: 9.8% as of February, 2003 and 8.2% as of March, 2003.
Goal: To reduce the number of jobless people.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Improve Adult Literacy and job skills programs; ED1, ED7, ED8, ED9
- ❑ Promote children's issues through business councils; ED6, ED7, ED8, ED9, ED10, ED11, OS4
Explanation: Educate business leaders that being "family friendly" to employees will bring about quality effort and work in return from employees.
- ❑ ADECA needs to broaden its perspective of economic development; FD12
Explanation: More funding should be available for children's issues.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Availability of quality care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Contract for professional in-depth county-wide needs assessment to identify assets and needs related to children (0 - 5 years of age) to identify issues related to "quality" and "availability".
- ❑ Subcommittees formed to examine "best practices" and programs so that committee members may become knowledgeable in order to use data and assessment in making appropriate recommendations.
- ❑ Committee has aligned with Alabama Kidstuff by becoming the Kidstuff Partnership of the Talladega County Children's Policy Council.
- ❑ Identify appropriate child outcomes of children enrolled in "quality" care.

Training of child care workers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Identify competencies and knowledge of child care workers / teachers to meet action step 3 above (under Issue 1).
- ❑ Examine issues and propose programs necessary to meet action step 1.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Kid's Count - School drop-out rate, Title I and Special Education enrollment
Goal: Every child will have access to quality early care and education programs.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Percent of population participating in pre-K program (less than 1%)
Goal: Every 4 year old child will have access to quality pre-K programs through which each becomes prepared to learn what is taught in school.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Availability of pre-K classrooms meeting established criteria for pre-K
Goal: Every child will have access to pre-K classroom that meets or exceeds the acceptable criteria for pre-K.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Universal - pre-K age group of children, CD1, CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD6
Explanation: The needs of this age group should be addressed to ready them for success in the next phases of their life.
- ❑ Implementation of TEACH Program; CD7

Explanation: Revamp allocation of slots available, by the method in which counties are "regioned" with others for few available positions.

☐ Increase early intervention programs; CD1, CD2

Explanation: Programs such as Kidstuff, Alabama Partnership for Children

☐ Statewide commitment to children's issues (age group 0 through 5 years old); FD12

Explanation: To make children a priority in the State of Alabama.

Tallapoosa County

Tallapoosa County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Clayton Kim Taylor, District Court Judge

Sheriff Jimmy Abbett
David Baker
Mary Browning
Amy Bullard
T. C. Coley, Jr.
Jonathan Davis
Owen Duke
Carol Fields
Raphelia Forbus
Julianne Freeman

Rep. Betty C. Graham
Terri Haggerty
Cheryl Hamlin
Marsha Hanks
Stanley Johnson
Charles Kelley
Com. David Lashley
Damon Lewis
Cpl. Joseph McClellan
Glenn T. McGee

Tomeka McGhee
Antionette Robinson
Teresa Smoot
Jean Spicer
Sarah Tanner
Glenn Thomas
Mary Tremelling
Luann White
Gail Zeenah



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Substance Abuse

Every child in Tallapoosa County will have an access to a quality education

Increase parental involvement and participation

HEALTH

Teen Pregnancy and Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create family resource centers and implement programs.
- ☐ Work with school systems, PTO's student body(s) with their teen pregnancy program.
- ☐ Through the media, provide facts, information and awareness of teen pregnancy in our county.

Improve physical health for children ages 0-19

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Offer awareness programs for children, youth and parents at Resource Center(s).
- ☐ Provide drug awareness programs for youth and parents.
- ☐ Provide nutrition and health programs for youth and parents.

Measures

- Baseline:** Teen pregnancy rate is currently 44.3%.
- Goal:** Reduce teen pregnancy rate by 5%
- Baseline:** Improve physical health of children, youth and parents
- Goal:** Increase knowledge and physical health of those served

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Increase funding for teen pregnancy program at local level.
- ☐ Establish programs that promote physical health and nutrition.

SAFETY

Juvenile Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Recommend science-based substance abuse programs for classrooms and after-school programs.
- ☐ Coordinate a forum class with schools.

Defiant Behavior

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Early intervention by a mediator to train students in peer mediation skills.
- ☐ Contract for parenting classes for out-of-control children.
- ☐ Develop anger management classes addressing violent behavior in the school system(s), coordinating with the Superintendent, JPO, and Juvenile Judge
- ☐ Develop an on-going advisory panel comprised of the Superintendent, JPO, and Juvenile Judge for the purpose

of discussing case management and conflict resolution for children who exhibit defiant behavior.

☐The Advisory Panel will report to Children's Policy Council at the regular scheduled meetings

Measures

☐Reduce the incidences of substance abuse juvenile court cased by 10%.

☐Reduce discipline referrals and/or incidences of fighting by 8-10%.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐Create a Safety Team which will bring in speakers and counselors to go to schools, churches, and learning resource centers and community meetings to speak with parents, children, and youth.

☐Implement a Train-the Trainer Program to those local teams can also present programs when needed.

EDUCATION

Every child in Tallapoosa County will have access to quality education

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Tallapoosa County needs to make the curriculum of all Head Start and Pre K programs uniformed and consistent.

☐Hire a truancy officer for the county and encourage school districts to enforce truancy.

☐Develop a central learning center site within each rural community

Increase parental involvement and participation

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Keep parents informed about upcoming events or activities through various media sources.

☐Develop parental development classes (Ex. HOPE) per community.

☐Develop new strategies for parental accountability.

Measures

☐Secure at least one certified teacher at each Head Start program to implement a standard curriculum.

☐Increase the number of Head Start and pre K students enrolled by 1%.

☐Decrease the truancy number of children with 5 or more unexcused absences per school year by 1%.

☐Increase the number of learning centers or show strong efforts to develop them(we would only need two or three more).

☐Increase the number of parental development classes to one per community.

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐Increase funding for quality parental development classes (i.e. HOPE) and a learning center.

☐Provide funds for a county wide truancy officer.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Drop out rate of high school students

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Reduce dropout rate by 10%.

☐Gather information from schools on their dropout prevention strategies.

Lack of job training and job placement

Policy Council Action Steps

☐Implement Hi-tech training through Alabama Career Center System.

☐Coordinate county-wide job fair/career day through the High Schools

Measures

☐Event dropout rate in Kids Count data book.

☐Implement attendance statistics on the Alabama Career Center System

☐Track number of presentation held by all high schools within county

State Program and Policy

Recommendations

☐Promote additional services to be offered by Alabama Career System other than WIA program.

☐Seek ear-marked funding for drop out prevention programs in schools.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Parental awareness of early care and educational needs of children ages 0-5

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Provide parenting classes before and after birth for mothers and fathers.
- ☐ Produce resource brochure for parents
- ☐ Work through churches to have support groups

Low birth, early care and education

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Recommend/promote the continuance of a program such as, "Baby Think It Over" at all schools in the county.
- ☐ Work through faith-based agencies to provide support groups.
- ☐ Work with community-at-large to reach at risk families

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** The health, education, safety, and security of children ages 0 to 5.
- Goal:** Increase by 5% per year.
- ☐ **Goal:** To reduce the number of teen pregnancies, STD's and other risk factors by 10% in upcoming year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Information distribution and community education

Tuscaloosa County

Tuscaloosa County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Herschel T. Hamner, Circuit Court Judge

Karen Y. Singley

Ron Gilbert

Horace Allen

Fred Gray

Bruce Hopper

Hon. Philip N. Lisenby

Vickie Foster

Sgt. R. J. Watson

Amy Paillette

Louise Crawford

Dr. Joyce Sellers

Cecil Hopkins

Fred Grady

Thomas M. Smith

Sheriff Edmund "Ted"

Sexton

Hon. Hardy McCollum

Nancy Angelo

Tommy Woods

Rev. Schmitt Moore

Teresa Costanzo

Ken Banks

Carolyn Stevenson

Sen. Phil Poole

Rep. Tim Parker

Rep. Gerald Allen

Kenneth C. Randall

Leslie Bryant

Tamara Jenkins



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve quality early care and education

Create or expand programs to promote stable families

Identify or create programs to reduce violent crime rates, substance abuse rates, and arrest rates for juveniles

HEALTH

Provide medical and dental insurance for all children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage publicity about medical and dental insurance for children not currently covered by any policy.
- ☐ Encourage Health Fairs to promote insurance sign ups.
- ☐ Advocate for other medical and dental insurance for children currently not eligible for insurance.
- ☐ Encourage all service agencies, schools, churches, and the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority to provide insurance forms and to assist clients in completing them.
- ☐ Support efforts to provide services to community members for whom English is a second language.

Affordable mental health services and follow up for all children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Advocate for transportation as needed.
- ☐ Support efforts to develop inpatient crisis stabilization services for children in Tuscaloosa County.
- ☐ Support efforts to provide services to community members for whom English is a second language.

☐ The Tuscaloosa Children's Policy Council will send a letter to mayors and the probate judge encouraging increased local funding for mental health services.

Measures

- ☐ Increase the number of uninsured children receiving benefits by 2%.
- ☐ One contact will be made with social service agencies and transportation agencies to encourage collaborative planning.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ OS2

Explanation: Increase funding for transportation in order to provide easier access to dental, medical, and mental health services.

☐ PH5

Explanation: Increase funding for medical and dental services for families for whom English is a second language.

☐ ED5

Explanation: Increase the number of programs for families for whom English is a second language.

SAFETY

Support services for victims and witnesses to domestic and gang violence

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Solicit membership on the Children's Policy Council of a representative from the domestic violence community (such as Turning Point).
- ☐ Gang suppression unit officer will educate the Children's Policy Council.
- ☐ Explore possibilities of how to intervene immediately with children who are witnesses to domestic violence.

Identify or create programs to reduce the violent crime, substance abuse, and arrest rate for juveniles

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Contact Mentor Alabama to explore implementation of programs in Tuscaloosa County.
- ☐ Support continuation and potential expansion of the Family Weekend program.
- ☐ Educate the Children's Policy Council in order to identify potential innovative avenues to ameliorate the previously stated problems.
- ☐ Explore out-of-school enhancement programs for middle and high school students

Measures

- ☐ At least one member from the domestic violence service sector will be invited to join the Tuscaloosa Children's Policy Council.
- ☐ At least one gang suppression officer will be invited to speak to the Tuscaloosa Children's Policy Council.
- ☐ At least one invitation will be made to Mentor Alabama to explore implementation of their programs in Tuscaloosa County.
- ☐ Increase participation in the Family Weekend program by 10%.
- ☐ Reduce the substance abuse rate by 2%.
- ☐ Reduce the juvenile violent crime rate to 5%.
- ☐ Reduce the amount of children with indication of abuse and neglect by 2%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ FD2

Explanation: Increase funding for family violence and intervention.

☐ YD6

Explanation: Shorten turn around time for background checks for mentors.

☐ YD3

Explanation: Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) should provide more probation officers for Tuscaloosa County.

☐ CD2

Explanation: Additional funding should be provided to conduct parent education training on the proper use of child restraint seats.

EDUCATION

All children will have access to after school tutoring programs to enhance school success

Policy Council Actions

- ☐ Ask director of 21st Century Fund to educate the Children's Policy Council on their activities regarding after-school tutoring programs in Tuscaloosa County.
- ☐ Promote parental involvement in after-school programs.
- ☐ Explore and encourage the development of additional out-of-school programs.

Reading/literacy programs will be developed throughout Tuscaloosa County in order to enhance children's school success

Policy Council Actions

- ☐ Identify currently existing services in this area of need.
- ☐ Encourage partnership among agencies providing services in this area to identify gaps.
- ☐ Support efforts to meet needs in identified service gaps.

Programs will exist to serve the educational and behavioral needs of expelled students and children displaced by the elimination of alternative schools

Policy Council Actions

- ☐ Explore and identify potential partnerships with existing service providers.
- ☐ Explore new funding sources for alternative education.
- ☐ Identify and invite an expert of alternative school programs to educate the Tuscaloosa County Children's Policy Council on the need for and methods used in alternative education.

Measures

- ❑ An invitation will be extended to the 21st Century Fund to educate the Tuscaloosa County Children's Policy Council on their activities regarding after-school tutoring programs in Tuscaloosa County.
- ❑ Increase parental involvement in after-school programs by 2%.
- ❑ Improve first grade retention rates by 2%.
- ❑ Improve the event dropout rate by 2%.
- ❑ Improve after-school enrollment by 2%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ AD7
Explanation: Increase funding for programs.
- ❑ AD3
Explanation: Federal and state money should be provided for state involvement centers.
- ❑ AD1
Explanation: More funding will be provided for alternative school programs.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Create or expand programs to promote stable families.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Promote programs for youth to gain positive work experiences.
- ❑ Continue to support the Youth Career Fair.
- ❑ Support career exploration and preparation from early childhood through adolescence.

Increase access to adequate, affordable housing.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Encourage the state Children's Policy Council to write the Federal Government for increased funding for housing.
- ❑ Support condemnation and removal of substandard housing in Tuscaloosa County.
- ❑ Support collaboration among community agencies to improve the adequacy of neighborhoods in our community.
- ❑ Support the creation of community action groups within neighborhoods to foster community pride and community improvement.
- ❑ Support programs that create affordable housing.
- ❑ Support the increase of the capacity of programs that serve homeless populations with children.

Measures

- ❑ Increase the number of youths working by 2%.
- ❑ Increase the number of participants in the youth fair by 5%.
- ❑ Increase the number of dollars for housing by 2%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ FD3
Explanation: Permanent funding for all counties to maintain a Family Resource Center.
- ❑ OS1
Explanation: Increase federal funding from HUD in order to provide affordable housing for all.
- ❑ ED8
Explanation: Increase funding for youth employment opportunities.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Improve quality early care and education.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Support local and state efforts to provide intense training of daycare teachers and staff.
- ❑ Encourage local enforcement of licensing requirements for daycare providers.
- ❑ Support and expand the continuation and development of parent education and support programs.
- ❑ Increase public awareness of quality child care standards.

Improve access availability to quality childcare.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Promote the creation of licensed day care programs with non-traditional hours.
- ❑ Encourage local funding for child care in addition to existing state and federal funding.
- ❑ Encourage state officials to ensure the provision of state match to fully draw-down available federal funds for child care

Measures

- ❑ Increase the number of people receiving services such as Baby TALK, BEST, Success by Six, and Children's Rehabilitation Services and Early Intervention by 5%.
- ❑ Increase public awareness through publications, media, and appearances by 2%.

☐ Increase training of professionals in this field by 2%.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ CD3

Explanation: The Department of Education, Department of Human Resources, and Bureau of Children's Affairs should increase the amount of matching funds for early care and education.

☐ ED3

Explanation: Increase the money, access, and affordability for childcare.

☐ CD5

Explanation: Require all child care programs who receive subsidy payments to meet current minimum standards.

☐ CD7

Explanation: Consider tiered reimbursement for providers of childcare services who participate in the child care subsidy program.

Walker County

Walker County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. James C. Brotherton, District Court Judge

Randy Redmill
Dr. Jerry Lovett
Dr. Hank Milius
Randy Jones
Ray White
Phillip Wood
Dr. Faron Hollinger
Alan Trotter
Wanda J. Spears
R. David Blackerby

Jennie Earnest
Charles Baker
Rep. Tom Hogan
Sen. Curt Lee
Bruce Hamrick
Sheriff John M. Tirey
Karen Bevill
Nora Allen
Brenda Doss
Jane Aswell

Connie Cooner-Wells
Pollyanna Higgs
Chief Bobby Cain
Danny Patton
Paula Sanders
Thomas Sherer
Jan Ingle
Vivian Winters



HEALTH

Wellness Education and Insurance

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The Health Sub-committee will continue to survey needs, seek funding/resources in regard to health issues and make reports/recommendations to the council.
- ☐ The council will support the expansion of programs and services that promote wellness education and the utilization of insurance for children.

Decrease the number of teen pregnancies

Policy Council Action Step(s)

- ☐ The Health Sub-Committee will continue to survey needs, seek funding/resources in regard to reducing teen pregnancies and make reports/recommendations to the council.
- ☐ The council will support education programs targeting younger children in regard to reducing teen pregnancy issues particularly targeting 8th graders. ☐ The council will support the establishment of a youth council to help address/assess the needs of children in the county.

Measure

☐ **Baseline:** According to the 2002 Alabama Kids Count the Infant Mortality Rate for Walker County was 13.3 and the Low Weight Births was 7.8.

Goal: Reduction in these statistics.

☐ **Baseline:** According to the 2002 Alabama Kids Count the births to unmarried teens were 8.3. And 10.0 were vulnerable families.

Goal: Reduction in these statistics.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

☐ PH10

Explanation: Wellness/health education: Healthy behavior, nutrition, etc.

☐ FD8, FD9

Explanation: Pregnancy Prevention/Intervention

SAFETY

Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The council will support the establishment of a youth council to help in assessing the needs of children in the county.
- ☐ The Safety sub-committee will continue to survey the needs, seeking resources and making reports/recommendations to the council in regard to safety.
- ☐ The council will promote and utilize the Parent Project to help increase safety for children in the county.

Domestic Violence/Child Abuse/Violence

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ The Safety Sub-Committee will continue to survey needs, seeking resources and making reports/recommendations to the council in regard to safety.
- ☐ The council will promote and utilize the Parent Project to help reduce violence among children/families in the county.
- ☐ The council will seek and support training for

professionals, parents, citizens on signs and symptoms of child abuse.

□The council will pursue and support continued collaboration with agencies, public officials that service individuals/families/children to reduce violence, domestic abuse, dysfunctional family issues within the county.

Measures

□**Baseline:** According to the 2002 Kids Count the Juvenile Substance Abuse Rate was 238.1-ranked 27th in the state. The Juvenile substance abuse court referral rate was 1,878.3

□**Goal:** Reduction in these rates.

□**Baseline:** According to the 2002 Alabama Kids Count children with indication of abuse or neglect in Walker County were 9.7. Juvenile violent crime arrest rate was 26.5 and the juvenile violent crime court referral rate was 52.9

□**Goal:** Reduction in these rates.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□MH1, MH7

Explanation: Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention/intervention

□FD2

Explanation: Family violence prevention/intervention

EDUCATION

Afterschool Programs

Policy Council Action Steps

□The council will utilize the Education Sub-Committee, the committee will continue to survey the needs, seek funding/resources to expand programs. The committee will report and make recommendations to the council.

□The council will support/seek the expansion of after school programs, encouraging the expansion in rural areas.

□Support and seek expansion of transportation to after school programs

□Encourage and support the extension of time for after school programs.

Reduce Drop Out Rate

Policy Council Action Steps

□The sub-committee will continue to survey the needs, seeking funding/resources. The committee will report and make recommendations to the council.

□The council will offer support (letters) for funding.

□The council will support and utilize the Parent Project as a resource to reduce the drop out rate.

□Encourage, seek and support after school employment opportunities.

□The council will continue to collaborate with schools/students/resources to provide support for children to remain in school.

Measures

□**Baseline:** According to the 2002 Alabama Kids Count Walker County reported the following: event dropout rate was 3.5 and projected drop out rate was 13.6. The county is ranked 7th in the state in both areas.

□**Goal:** Reduce the drop out rate in the county.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□YD1

Explanation: After school programs/activities

□YD3

Explanation: Delinquency Prevention

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps

□The Economic Security Sub-Committee will continue to survey the needs, and will make reports/recommendations to the council.

□Investigate the possibility of programs for the county like "Ways to Work"

□Support programs like "Kid One" to help in transportation needs.

□Encourage and support collaboration on bus systems.

□Advocate with city and county councils/commissions in regard to transportation.

Employment/Jobs

Policy Council Action Steps

□The Economic Security Sub-Committee will continue to survey the needs, and will make reports/recommendations to the council.

□The council will work with local agencies/offices to provide support of new job opportunities (ex: industrial boards, chamber of commerce's, corporations, businesses)

□Support job readiness programs

Measures

□**Baseline:** According to the 2002 Alabama Kids

County Walker County was ranked as follows: 13th with the number of vulnerable families, 16th with children receiving AFDC/TANF, 27th with children in poverty.

Goal: Reduction in these statistics.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□ED1

Explanation: GED programs

□ED6, ED7, ED8, ED9

Explanation: Job Training, career planning

□OS2

Explanation: Transportation

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Social and Cognitive Development

Policy Council Action Steps

□The Early Education Sub-Committee will continue to assess needs, look for funding and resources to support early care and education. The committee will also report and recommend to the council.

□Support and utilize local childcare resources.

□Support and utilize educational programs that support early care and education.

□Support programs that provide educational information to parents.

□Increase community awareness of programs available.

□Support the continued development of programs for young children.

□Support and utilize day treatment programs for 2-5 year olds in the county.

□Support the work and expansion in the county to provide preschool intervention programs.

Daycare Needs

Policy Council Action Steps

□The Early Education Sub-Committee will continue to assess needs, look for funding and resources to support early care and education. The committee will also report and recommend to the council.

□Support and promote the development and availability of affordable daycare as well as alternative daycare programs (ex: weekend and evening care).

Measures

□**Baseline:** According to the 2002 Alabama Kids Count Walker County ranked as follows: 37th with first

grade retention, 13th with vulnerable families, 16th with children receiving AFDC/TANF, 27th with children living in poverty, and 25th with children living with single-parent families.

Goal: Reduce statistics by supporting/encouraging increase in number of services.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

□*Explanation: Provide funding for more licensed day care centers that are affordable and accessible. This includes families in low-income areas.*

□CD2

Explanation: Early Intervention Programs

□CD3

Explanation: Early Childhood Education

□CD4, CD5

Explanation: Family Childcare/Center based

Washington County

Washington County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Jerry L. Turner, District Court Judge

Rene Massey
Mike Goldman
Turner Sims
Tonya Beech
Mary Turner
Thomas S. Lolley
Robert Ramsey
Tillman Parnell
Ralph Garrick
Margaret Parnell
Robert Keahey

Rep. Jeff Dolbare
Sen. W. H. Lindsey
John H. Armstrong
William Wheat
David Sorge
Rebecca Ramey
Ted beech
Dr. Steve Donald
Arthur Threatt
Dewayne Garrick
Brenda Bryars

Harold Crouch
Rev. Tommy Moore
Penny McDaniel
Jean Williams
Bro. Bobby Shirley
Rev. Thomas L. Lewis
Scott Tew
Sandra Iankford
Rev. Richard Chaney
Marva Davis
John Eads



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Create a Family Resource Center for Washington County that would help provide solutions to a number of the issues affecting the children of our county

☐ To obtain funding to implement a Family Resource Center for Washington County.

Provide the schools in Washington County with social workers

☐ Obtain funding to implement social workers for Washington County schools.

Expand the Head Start program in Washington County

☐ Develop Head Start programs in all areas of the county.

HEALTH

Target children ages 0-19 years who are at risk for substance abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create a family crisis intervention resource center to target this group.
- ☐ Create a substance abuse prevention and treatment program.
- ☐ Provide parent education classes on substance abuse.

Target children ages 18 and under who are engaged in or at risk for sexual behaviors

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Create a family crisis intervention resource center to target this group.
- ☐ Provide ongoing abstinence-based education outreach program.

- ☐ Provide ongoing STD-HIV/AIDS education through community entities.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Currently agencies provide screening for substance abuse through the school programs.
- Goal:** Provide a substance abuse treatment program and comprehensive prevention program.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Currently agencies provide limited services for this type education.
- Goal:** Reduce the incidence of STD's and teen pregnancy by 10%.

SAFETY

Provide a program designed to target children 12-17 years who might need a safe-haven situation involving domestic crisis for children in need of supervision

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Create a family crisis intervention resource center to target this group.
- ❑ Create a process to identify and support individuals in obtaining relevant services through a referral process.
- ❑ Identify and educate the appropriate entities and critical personnel for early detection and reporting.

Target children 0-17 years in working with public school systems and pre-school systems to ensure a safe educational environment

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Broaden the DARE program to include all schools.
- ❑ Provide safety and crisis intervention training to pre-school workers and students.
- ❑ Provide CPR and fire safety classes to pre-school workers.
- ❑ Provide personal safety classes to all students in public schools.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Currently Washington County has limited services to meet these needs.
- ❑ **Goal:** Develop programs and rehabilitation for safe-haven services.
- ❑ **Baseline:** There are some standards in place for daycare, which are currently required for them to be licensed by the Department of Human Resources.
- ❑ **Goal:** Have every student in pre-school through high school receive personal safety training.

EDUCATION

Create a program offering college readiness for high school students and an alternative program to college

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Offer a college career day each school year to all high school students.
- ❑ Offer a career day each school year to all high school students with emphasis on vocational, technical and military training.
- ❑ Offer a program to improve students testing abilities for college and non-college entry examines.

Develop a program for social workers for each school in the

county to monitor school truancy, dropouts and social issues effecting students

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ For social workers to counsel with parents and children concerning truancy problems.
- ❑ To aid and counsel with parents and children concerning potential dropouts as well as assisting dropouts with obtaining alternative educational source, i.e (GED and vocational training).
- ❑ To handle specific social issues concerning children in the school system.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Currently there are very limited services to address these issues.
- ❑ **Goal:** Extend the existing career day emphasis for college and non-college bound students.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Currently there are no social workers in the school system.
- ❑ **Goal:** To provide social workers in the school system.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Provide opportunities for families with children to receive training that would positively effect the economic situation in the home

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Create a family crisis intervention resource center to target this group.
- ❑ Provide assistance in obtaining information relating to economic resources and availability through other agencies.

Provide vocational classes to parents or potential parents to acquire employable skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Create a family crisis intervention resource center to target this group.
- ❑ Provide vocational classes relating to local industry to parents and potential parents.
- ❑ Provide job skills training to assist parents and potential parents in acquiring employment and maintaining employment.

Measures

□Baseline: Currently there are no services that address this issue.

Goal: Assist families in obtaining available financial resources.

□Baseline: Currently there are adult education classes that address education aspects of this issue, however, not the vocational aspects.

Goal: Provide vocational classes and job skill classes relating to local industry.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Expand the Head Start programs to other areas in the county

Policy Council Action Steps

□Work with Mobile Community Action in developing Head Start programs to all areas of the county.

Provide daycare services for children during extended working hours in an effort to support working parents and increase child supervision

Policy Council Action Steps

□Create a family crisis intervention resource center to target this group.

□Provide daycare services for children of families who work extended hours.

□Develop educational curriculum/tutoring programs to children receiving evening daycare services.

Measures

□Baseline: There is currently one Head Start program located in only one community in the county.

Goal: Have Head Start conveniently available countywide.

□Baseline: There are currently no services available to address this issue.

Goal: Provide a safe, educational based daycare with extended hours.

Wilcox County

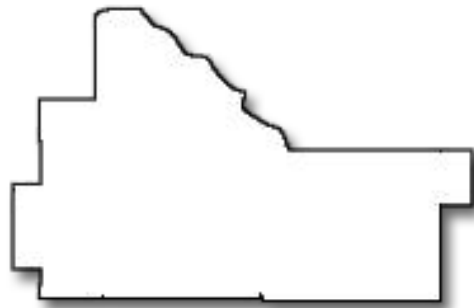
Wilcox County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Jo Celeste Pettway, District Court Judge

John Lisenbe
Andrea Dean
Christine Taylor
Rutha Phillips
Dorothy Moore
Clinton Stanton
S. C. Collier
Lorenzo Craig
Judith Faulkenberry
Ed Greene
Rep. James Thomas

Sen. Hank Sanders
Lena Powell
Sheriff Prince Arnold
Lola Saulsberry
Gloria McDole
Debra Moya
Arzula Johnson
Rev. Lonnie Brown, Sr.
Rev. Lawrence Wofford
Sheryl Threadgill
Henrietta Blackmon

Alfreda Williams
Ralph Ervin
Richard Bryant
Jeannie Hollinger
Leigh Hardy
Marilyn B. Kennedy
Fred Gray
Sis. Nancy Clark
Doris Smith
Catherine Harris
Patricia Pettway



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Early Care and Education

It is the belief of this Council that, by addressing the need for Early Care and Education, many other areas of concern will be enhanced as well. By enhancing the services for early care, youth will be taken care of in safe and clean environments while parents work, which will ultimately enhance the quality of life for the household. By enhancing the services for early education, the youth of Wilcox will be better equipped to begin school with appropriate skills, but will also have developed good study habits that will assist them throughout their education years. By effectively providing early education, youth will be in a position to do better and achieve better grades in secondary education.

- ☐ Seek funding for Early Start, Even Start and enlarged Head Start programs.
- ☐ Seek funding for Extended Day programs.
- ☐ Advocate for Head Start Programs through out the County, through the Board of Education.
- ☐ Include Early Childcare & Education Programs within *One Stop Youth Development Centers.

Safety

Through concentrated efforts, in collaboration with other county agencies, Wilcox's youth will learn to be safe, practice safe behavior, the consequences

of unsafe decisions, and how to respond to unsafe situations through media awareness campaign, such as the **Youth Violence Prevention weeklong campaign.

- ☐ Seek funding and/or sponsors for the Youth Violence Prevention Weeklong Program.
- ☐ Advocate for anger management, conflict resolution, and peer mediation programs within schools.
- ☐ Seek funding (and partners) to include the aforementioned programs within *One Stop Youth Development Centers.

Economic Security

The Council will support the efforts of any local or state entity actively engaged in developing Wilcox County in efforts to produce a higher quality of life for Wilcox citizens through workforce development. In relation to Wilcox youth, the Council will continue to support the efforts of the ***Wilcox County Summer Employment Program aimed at training youths with the skills they will need to not only obtain, but retain as well, successful and meaningful careers.

- ☐ Seek funding for Summer Employment Training Program.
- ☐ Encourage collaboration between local government bodies to develop the county.

HEALTH

Pregnancy Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Abstinence based programs for grades 6-12.

- ☐ Public awareness campaign for early pregnancy prevention (i.e.- abstinence).
- ☐ Classes divided by gender to address pregnancy prevention issues.

Substance Abuse Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Seek intervention programs for those already engaged in use of illegal substances.
- ❑ Raise awareness of the health issues surrounding alcohol and substance abuse.

General Health Issues for Children

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Prevent learning disability through testing and early interventions in reference to vision and hearing - identify testing procedures in place and find sources where needs are not met.
- ❑ Address the issue of child obesity: Provide nutrition education through programs already in place.
 - a. Address the issue of obesity through the recreation program.
 - b. Encourage community centers to provide area programs that address obesity among children with parents present.
- ❑ Seek funding for the Wilcox County Countywide One Stop Youth Development Centers.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Currently, Wilcox has 17.5% of births to unmarried teens.
Goal: Through pregnancy prevention awareness campaign, in conjunction with other agencies, will reduce this number by 10%.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Currently, Wilcox juvenile substance abuse rate is approximately 93%.
Goal: Will work in collaboration with other agencies to reduce this number by 20%.
- ❑ **Baseline:**
Goal: Through awareness campaign, in conjunction with other agencies, will inform public of health risks associated with obesity.

State Program or Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Pregnancy Prevention Awareness; FD8, FD9, MH8.
- ❑ Substance Abuse Intervention & Prevention; MH1, MH8.
- ❑ Educate public on health risks issues (obesity); PH10.

SAFETY

Fear of violence in the schools and at home

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Advocate for peer mediation at schools.
- ❑ Advocate for and encourage a "parental hall patrol group" with parent hall monitors and anonymous peer monitors.
- ❑ Anger management intervention and awareness - encourage participation in Cahaba Mental Health's 6-week course.
- ❑ Will work collaboratively with the Title 1 Programs for conflict resolution youth programs and peer mediation for juvenile court.
- ❑ Continue to host Youth Violence Prevention Weeklong Campaign.

Countywide Recreation - Youth need options for positive energy outlets

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Open lines of communication for the Boys & Girls Club of Thomasville, who is suppose to service Wilcox Youth, or seek funding for a Boys & Girls Club specifically for Wilcox County.
- ❑ Continue to support the efforts of the SADD and ACATA Programs for the high school.
- ❑ Support the efforts of the Baseball Dixie Youth Program
- ❑ Advocate for recreational programs by requesting that the County Commission restore the 1 mil tax that was previously earmarked for recreation.
- ❑ Seek sponsors to fund Youth Violence Prevention Weeklong Campaign.
- ❑ Recreational activities will be available at the One Stop Youth Development Centers, for which, we are seeking funding.
- ❑ Collaborate to sponsor Child Abuse Prevention Campaign, during the month of April. (We have submitted an application for this funding through the Children's Trust Fund).

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Current level of violence.
Goal: Reduce violent behavior in the home and in the schools by %.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Current there is very limited recreational activities available in the county.
Goal: Advocate for fully funded recreational programs through city and county governments..
Advocate for a full-time recreational director for the county.

State Program or Policy Recommendations

- ❑ One Stop Youth Development Centers; FD3.
- ❑ Youth Violence Prevention Campaign; YD11, YD4.

- ❑ Anger management/conflict resolution classes; YD3.
- ❑ Recreation development; FD10, YD9, YD10.

EDUCATION

Students cannot read and write at grade level for various reasons, including lack of parental involvement

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Work with Board of Education to solicit funds to place a social worker in each school.
- ❑ Encourage parent participation in Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).
- ❑ Form a partnership with the churches to encourage parents to become involved in the school life of their child (ren).

Lack of preparedness by a number of students for the exit exam and ACT/SAT tests

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Seek funding for preparatory classes for the High School Exit Exam and the ACT and SAT tests.
- ❑ Work in collaboration with the school to ensure that students are receiving tutoring for these tests.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Low parental attendance at PTO meetings countywide.
- ❑ **Goal:** Increase parental involvement by 20% by 2004.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Number of students who fail exit exam
- ❑ **Goal:** Increase the number of students who pass the exit exam by 20%.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Number of students who score low on the ACT/SAT tests.
- ❑ **Goal:** Increase the scores of the ACT/SAT tests by 20%.
- ❑ **Baseline:** Number of students who can not read and write at grade level.
- ❑ **Goal:** Increase children's reading and writing scores by 50% by 2004.

State Program or Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Collaborate with faith based groups to inform parents of the importance of parental involvement in a student's life; AD3, FD6.

- ❑ Encourage faith based groups to become mentors for student members of their congregation; YD6, OS5.
- ❑ Seek funding and advocate for social worker placement within schools.
- ❑ Form partnership with the PTOs for the purpose of increasing parental involvement; YD7.
- ❑ Appoint a CPC member to oversee and follow up on this issues/ programs.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Availability of Jobs--Want to ensure that meaningful job opportunities are available for the citizens of Wilcox County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Support the efforts of the County's Economic Developer.
- ❑ Make information of job announcements available to the public.
- ❑ In collaboration with Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission, will provide transportation for citizens to work in other areas.
- ❑ Establish stability and consistency with the Employment Service Agency.
- ❑ Encourage small business development and expansion.

Job Training/Preparation--Want to ensure that the youth of Wilcox County are properly trained and prepared to work in a changing workforce.

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Continue to support efforts of the Summer Employment Program for Youth.
- ❑ Training sessions and seminars with public speakers to address basic workforce issues (attire, professionalism, workplace conduct, leadership skills, etc.).
- ❑ Find out what industries are looking for, and provide this type of training and make this information available to the public.
- ❑ Establish stability and consistency with the Career One-Stop Center.
- ❑ Work in collaboration with the Career Tech Program at the High School.
- ❑ Encourage Job Corps entry and completion of GED.

Measures

- ❑ **Baseline:** Wilcox's present unemployment rate is 12.5% (statistic received from the Selma Unemployment

Office).

Goal: To establish a tracking system that will allow an accurate unemployment rate to be obtained. This system will include the number of individuals who apply for services with the Employment Service Agency, and those who do not. Reduce the unemployment rate by .05% of the total unemployment rate.

State Program or Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Host County Wide Job Fairs where employers set; up displays and inform the public of the type of worker he/she is interested in; ED6.
- ☐ Promote Workforce Development for the County; ED11
- ☐ Advocate to keep Vocational Classes in High schools to train students with more marketable skills.
- ☐ Seek funding for job training program for youths; ED7, ED8.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Lack of readiness of children to begin school studies

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Seek funding for Early Start, Even Start and enlarged Head Start programs.
- ☐ Seek funding for Extended Day programs.
- ☐ Advocate for Head Start Programs through out the County, through the Board of Education.
- ☐ Include Early Childcare & Education Program within One Stop Youth Development Centers.

Lack of Parenting Skills

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Refer parents to Cahaba Mental Health for parenting classes.
- ☐ Once established, parenting classes will be available at the One Stop Youth Development Centers to assist parents in obtaining better parenting skills.
- ☐ Presently, will work with current operating development centers to provide parenting skills classes, possibly in conjunction with the Cahaba Mental Health Agency.

Countywide Day Care Centers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Encourage Faith Based Organizations and Churches to development day care centers within their churches or organizations.
- ☐ Advocate through local bodies of government for the establishment of a countywide day care center
- ☐ Advocate and seek funding for permanent housing for youth to have a place to stay, be safe, and feel nurtured.

Measures

- ☐ **Baseline:** Current level of students not prepared to begin studies.
- ☐ **Goal:** 10-15% reduction in this number, whereby, children begin school with appropriate skills.
- ☐ **Baseline:** 8% of suspected cases of child abuse/neglect currently.
- ☐ **Goal:** Through, parenting skills training and the SCAN CAPA program (if funded), this number will decrease by 5%.
- ☐ **Baseline:** Currently, there are approximately five day care facilities in this county. However, these centers are equipped to handle only 15-20 youths. This leaves many families without proper day care for their children. Many families travel more than 20 miles, and in some instance, outside of the county, to place their children in adequate day care facilities.
- ☐ **Goal:** To work collaboratively with faith based and other organizations to develop 3 additional centers throughout the county.

State Program or Policy

Recommendations

- ☐ Even Start Programs; CD2, CD3.
- ☐ Advocate for increased availability in current Head Start Programs; CD4.
- ☐ Countywide Day Care Centers; CD5, ED3.

Winston County

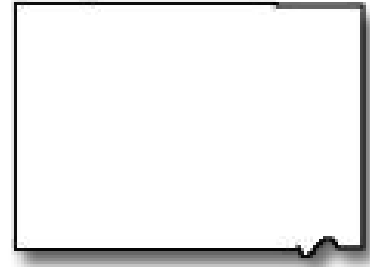
Winston County Children Policy Council Members

Hon. Samuel L. Masdon, District Court Judge

Charles Millwood
Dale Hendrix
John Posey
Robert Matthews
Neal Cook
Clint Baggett
R. C. Tedder
Ed Townsend

Randy Brimer
Danny Schmidtkofer
Monica Gardner
Beth Romo
Mike Millican
Roger Hayes
Cpl. Harold Rushton
Donnie Winters

Aaron Brown
Sen. Roger Bedford
Arvy Dupuy
Kyle Reogas
Dan Weaver
William L. Self
Dan Hogan
Myra Perez



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

All children in Winston County will have access to alternative school programs to reduce suspension rate

- ☐ Funding to support an alternative school program.
- ☐ Provide parental involvement and information on accountability and responsibility of parents and their children.

Increase drug and alcohol abuse programs for parental involvement and education

- ☐ Funding provided for a parent/youth programs on drug and alcohol abuse.

- ☐ Provide funding for a Winston County teen in-patient/out-patient family treatment center.
- ☐ Provide funding for and adopt policies for court-ordered parental education classes on parental responsibility for their child's behavior in the community and in schools.

All Winston County children and their families are provided resources to improve family relations and growth

- ☐ Program or Policy Recommendation: Provide funding for parent education on substance abuse and parenting teens.
- ☐ Explore development of a Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Increase parenting/mentoring programs.

HEALTH

Individual counseling: full time social or mental health worker in-school/in-court system

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Mental Health Department coordinate with public schools.
- ☐ Referrals to appropriate agencies: DHR, MH, Medicaid, etc.
- ☐ Work with Teen Case Managers at Health Department.

Family counseling: including family support and basic life skills training

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Referral to all services available to local agencies.

- ☐ Home visits by social worker when needed to evaluate effectiveness of intervention.
- ☐ Enlist churches as family mentors.

Measures

- ☐ Counseling/social worker.

Baseline: Look at initial evaluation.

Goal: Evaluate at intervals for effectiveness.

- ☐ Support programs and skills training.

Baseline: Preparation for life skills.

Goal: Better lifestyle.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Funding for school-based social worker; PH6.
- ☐ Family support & basic life skills training; MH4.
- ☐ School based nurse; PH6.

SAFETY

Drug and alcohol abuse

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Develop local treatment programs.
- ☐ Start/sponsor prevention programs for K-12.
- ☐ Concentrate on law enforcement issues.

Establish family and youth development programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Explore development of a Family Resource Center.
- ☐ Enhance family violence prevention/intervention (sexual abuse, neglect, battering).
- ☐ Develop delinquency/intervention (court services, personnel, school resource officer, anger management class, conflict resolution class, etc.).
- ☐ Improve case coordination across agencies.
- ☐ Increase parenting/mentoring programs.
- ☐ Develop programs such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Measures

- ☐ Number of programs developed.

Baseline: 1.00
Goal: 2.00

- ☐ Family and youth development programs established.

Baseline: 0.00
Goal: 2.00

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Funding for drug/alcohol programs; MH1.
Explanation: Prevention, treatment, enforcement.
- ☐ Funding for family and youth development; FD1, FD2, FD3, FD6.
Explanation: Establish programs.

EDUCATION

Increase graduation rate for students in Winston County

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Acquire funding through the Workforce Investment Act for intensive study skills development and career planning activities.
- ☐ Collaborate with the Northwest Mental Health Center to provide counseling for students and parents for those students who are at-risk of dropping out of school due to poor attendance and low grades.
- ☐ Acquire funding for an at-risk teacher for each school.

Maintain student/teacher contact time through revised alternative programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Apply for Children First funds to support an Alternative School that serves the students of both Haleyville and Winston County.
- ☐ Apply for funding to provide community-based service programs for those students who have been suspended from school.

Measures

- ☐ Drop out rate for students.

Baseline: 94.1% of students in grades 9-12 completed the 2002-2003 year.

Goal: Increase retention rate by 2% for the 2003-2004 school year.

- ☐ Out of school suspensions.

Baseline: 186 students were suspended during the 2002-2003 school year.

Goal: Cut the number of out of school suspension by 50% 2003-2004 school year.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ☐ Provide tutoring/academic counseling during school; computer aided instruction; AD8.
- ☐ Provide counseling for parents through Northwest Mental Health for at-risk students; AD3.
- ☐ Provide an alternative program for all students in need; AD1.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs are met

Policy Council Action Steps

- ☐ Increase information programs and resources for job availability.
- ☐ Promote workshops and activities that stress the importance of accountability and responsibility.
- ☐ Prepare students and family to actively contribute to the community using job and skill training available through existing agencies and support.

Enhance and strengthening existing youth development programs

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Build on current network to increase information availability of services and resources through community awareness programs and development of an area-wide resource directory.
- ❑ Collaborate with job training and education sites to plan and implement programs that would encourage young adults to seek training for local employment.
- ❑ Promote job training and placement through the Workforce Investment Act via Career Centers/Career Links which provides the resources necessary for exploring career options and labor market information.

Measures

- ❑ Vulnerable families.
Baseline: 13%--Kids Count 2002.
Goal: 10%
- ❑ Job training and career planning.
Baseline: Current number of area service providers and available funding.
Goal: To have resource information available throughout the area for all to use to the fullest extent.

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Job training/career planning; ED7.
- ❑ Job training and placement/support, multiple services program; ED9.
- ❑ Provide information on grant availability; ED2.
- ❑ Family support and basic life skills training; ED7.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Increase in available and affordable child care

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Survey day care centers to find out hours of operation
- ❑ To see if there was a need for after hours care.
- ❑ Investigate possibilities of after hours care center as needed.
- ❑ Investigate funding resources to expand existing subsidized programs.

Increased credentialed child care workers

Policy Council Action Steps

- ❑ Investigate partnership with Alabama Partnership for Children for TEACH Program.

- ❑ Survey child care centers to determine number of credential or licensed day care workers.
- ❑ Provide information on staff career advancement opportunities.

Measures

- ❑ 1st grade retention
Baseline: 6%--Kids Count 2002.
Goal: 4%
- ❑ Vulnerable families
Baseline: 7.0%--Kids County 2002.
Goal: 5.5%
- ❑ Children in poverty
Baseline: 22.7%--Kids Count 2002.
Goal: 21%

State Program and Policy Recommendations

- ❑ Fund subsidies for child care; CD4.
- ❑ Need more centers with credentialed day care workers; CD5.